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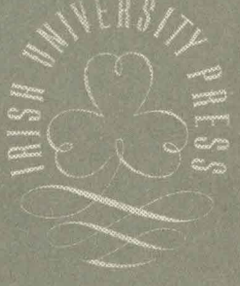

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Colonies

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1890

Colonies General

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES.

—(8.)—

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS;
COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

Session
11 *February* 1890 — 18 *August* 1890.

VOL. XLVIII.

1890.

2148653

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1890.

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

EIGHTH VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Paper; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS:

[c. 5897.] Colonial Possessions.

Australia, Western:

[c. 5897—3.] Report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1888. p. 1

[c. 5897—39.] Report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1889. 11

Bahamas:

[c. 5897—15.] Reports on the Fibre Industries of Yucatan and the Bahamas. 19

[c. 5897—25.] Report on the Blue Book of the Bahamas for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—13], 1889). 47

Barbados:

[c. 5897—37.] Report on the Blue Book of Barbados for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—20], 1889). 59

Basutoland:

[c. 5897.] Report of the Resident Commissioner for the Year ended 30th June 1889. 75

[c. 5897—32.] Report by Sir H. B. Loch of his Visit to Basutoland in April 1890; with a Despatch from the Secretary of State. 101

Bechuanaland, British:

[c. 5897—27.] Report of the Administrator for the Year ended 30th September 1889. 113

Bermuda:

[c. 5897—22.] Report on the Blue Book of Bermuda for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—8], 1889). 167

Ceylon:

[c. 5897—8.] Report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1888. 179

2148653

Fiji:

[c. 5897—9.] Report on the Blue Book of Fiji for 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5249—37], 1888). p. 201

Gambia:

[c. 5897—29.] Report on the Blue Book of Gambia for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—19], 1889). 235

Gibraltar:

[c. 5897—20.] Report on the Blue Book of Gibraltar for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—7], 1889). 259

Gold Coast:

[c. 5897—4.] Report on the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for 1888. 271

[c. 5897—6.] Sanitary and Medical Reports of the Gold Coast for 1887 and 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5249—9], 1888). 281

[c. 5897—40.] Report on the Economic Agriculture on the Gold Coast, 1889. 355

Grenada:

[c. 5897—21.] Report on the Blue Book of Grenada for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—22], 1889). 403

Guiana, British:

[c. 5897—2.] Report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5249—25], 1888). 421

[c. 5897—36.] Report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5897—2], 1890). 445

Honduras, British:

[c. 5897—1.] Report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5249—38]). 469

Hong Kong:

[c. 5897—7.] Report on the Blue Book of Hong Kong for 1888. 477

[c. 5897—14.] Further Report on the Blue Book for 1888. 497

Heligoland:

[c. 5897—16.] Report on the Blue Book of Heligoland for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—6], 1889). 525

Jamaica (Turks and Caicos Islands):

[c. 5897—28.] Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for 1889. 533

Labuan:

[c. 5897—41.] Report on the Blue Book of Labuan for 1889 (in continuation of [c. 5620—21], 1889). 545

Lagos:

[c. 5897—10.] Report on the Blue Book of Lagos for 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5620—26], 1889). 553

Leeward Islands:

[c. 5897—12.] Report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for 1888 (in continuation of [c. 5249—24], 1888). 563

Malta:

[C. 5897—35.] Report on the Blue Book of Malta for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5620—15], 1889). p. 595

Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues:

[C. 5897—18.] Reports on the Blue Books of Mauritius, &c., for 1888 (in continuation of [C. 5249—39], 1888). 613

Natal:

[C. 5897—13.] Despatch from Governor Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, K.C.M.G. (with Enclosures), on the Subject of the Liquor Traffic among the Natives of Natal. 633

[C. 5897—34.] Report on the Blue Book of Natal for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5620—18]). 651

Newfoundland:

[C. 5897—17.] Report on the Blue Book of Newfoundland for 1888 (in continuation of [C. 5620—4], 1889). 667

New Guinea, British:

[C. 5897—33.] Report of the Administrator for the period 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889; with a Despatch from the Secretary of State thereon. 675

St. Kitts-Nevis:

[C. 5897—31.] Report on the Blue Book of St. Kitts-Nevis for 1886 (in continuation of [C. 4904], 1886). 817

St. Lucia:

[C. 5897—26.] Report on the Blue Book of St. Lucia for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5620—25], 1889). 829

St. Vincent:

[C. 5897—23.] Report on the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1888. 845

[C. 5897—24.] Report on the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5891—23], 1890). 853

Sierra Leone:

[C. 5897—5.] Report on the Blue Book of Sierra Leone for 1888 (in continuation of [C. 5620], 1889). 871

Straits Settlements:

[C. 5897—30.] Report on the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5620—17]). 887

Trinidad and Tobago:

[C. 5897—38.] Report on the Blue Book of Trinidad and Tobago for 1889 (in continuation of [C. 5620—27], 1889). 911

Victoria:

[C. 5897—11.] Report on the Statistics of the Colony of Victoria for 1888 (in continuation of [C. 5620—1], 1889). 947

Zululand:

[C. 5897—19.] Report on the Blue Book of Zululand for 1889. 1023

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 73.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 29.)

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1889.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
23	Malta	1887
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
25	St. Vincent	,,
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,

No. 73.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Governor Sir F. NAPIER BROOME to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Perth,
August 19, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1888, together with a copy of the usual report thereon by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Sir Malcolm Fraser, K.C.M.G.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1888.

From the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
August 5, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1888.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir F. Napier Broome, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, Fees, and all other Sources of Revenue.*

The Customs duties during the year were levied under the new Tariff Act, 51st Victoria, No. 23, assented to on 6th January 1888. Telephone receipts, tramway receipts, and Fremantle water receipts appear as sources of revenue for the first time.

0 60095. Wt. 13155.

2.—*Revenue.*

The revenue, 357,003*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, received in 1888 shows a fall of 20,900*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* below the total receipts of the previous year. The land revenue shows an increase of 4,418*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* compared with that for 1887, whilst the Customs returns show a decrease of 11,912*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, owing principally to a falling off in trade.

The items showing an increase in 1888 over 1887 are harbour dues, land, rents (exclusive of land), licenses, fines, forfeitures and fees of court, fees of public offices, sale of Government property, reimbursements in aid, &c., contributions under Scab Act, stamp revenue, and brand revenue; whilst the principal ones showing a decrease are customs, postages, and telegrams, mail van receipts (let by contract), and railway receipts (falling off in traffic during winter months), refunds, interest, and special revenue, North District.

3.—*Expenditure.*

A sum of 385,129*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* was expended, being 71,768*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* below that of previous year, and 28,126*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in excess of the revenue received.

The departments in which decreases are the most noticeable are the survey, works, and railways, postal and telegraph, harbour and light, administration of justice, police, Rottnest, printing, inspection of sheep, volunteer, works and buildings, roads and bridges, and the miscellaneous vote; whilst the chief increases will be found in the medical, mining, special coast survey, pensions, revenue service north-west coast, and the money expended on the new Geological Department.

4.—*Military Expenditure.*

3,307*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* was the amount expended on the Volunteer Force during the year. Actual strength of the force is 24 officers and 493 men of all ranks.

5.—*Public Debt.*

The total indebtedness of the Colony on loans was 1,290,000*l.*, for which 63,820*l.* on account of interest and sinking fund was paid during the year.

A further Loan Bill was passed during 1888 (52 Vict., No. 12) to raise 100,000*l.* to supplement the loan of 1884.

6.—*Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

Works.

During the year under review a sum of 13,116*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* was expended from revenue by the Works Department. The amount spent is less by 26,262*l.* than the expenditure of the preceding year.

Railways.

Railways show a falling off in revenue to the amount of 3,802*l.*, owing to a decrease in the traffic during the months of June, July, and August.

The Government railways completed on 31st December 1888 were:—

	Miles.	Chains.	Links.
Geraldton to Northampton - - -	34	20	0
Fremantle to Beverley - - -	110	11	27
Racecourse branch - - - -	0	69	0
Spencer's Brook to Northam - - -	6	0	0
Clackline to Newcastle - - -	14	11	26
Geraldton to Walkaway - - -	17	0	0
Bunbury to Timber Ranges - - -	15	40	0
Roebourne-Cossack Tramway - - -	8	16	0
Total - - - -	206	7	53

Their total length was 206 miles 7 chns. 53 lks.; and besides these there were 51 miles of private railways owned by timber companies.

Roads and Bridges.

The grants to District Roads Boards and Municipal Councils for repairs and upkeep of main and minor roads and bridges throughout the Colony amounted to 8,372*l.* 10*s.*, whilst that for 1887 was 20,137*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

7.—*Population.*

The population at the end of December was 42,137. There is a slight falling off shown here as compared with the previous year. The increase by births over deaths is 845; decrease by departures over arrivals by sea, 1,869. Total loss in 1888 is 351.

8.—*Education.*

The average number of children attending the Government Schools was 2,533 at 3*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* a head, with 1,126 at the assisted schools at an average of 1*l.* 7*s.* 3¾*d.*, making a total of 3,659 as compared with 3,600 in 1887. The total sum expended on education was 11,763*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

9.—*Imports and Exports.*

The value of imports, during 1888 was estimated at 786,250*l.*, showing a falling off, as compared with 1887, of 45,963*l.* The exports rose from 604,656*l.* in 1887 to 680,346*l.* in 1888.

The decrease in the value of imports during 1888, as compared with 1887, appears to be chiefly confined to such articles as can be produced in the Colony, such as :—

	£	£
Butter, value imported less by -	- 307	
Cheese do. -	- 906	
Flour do. -	- 8,377	
Corn do. -	- 9,614	
Hay and chaff do. -	- 1,181	
Potatoes do. -	- 1,493	
Beer do. -	- 4,751	
	——	26,629
The other items showing decrease :—		
Sugar, value imported less by -	- 5,704	
Railway plant do. -	- 36,817	
	———	42,521

		69,150

The principal increases occurred in :—

	£	£
Imported stud stock - -	- 9,677	
Agricultural implements -	- 1,119	
Wool bales - - -	- 1,944	
	——	12,740
Tobacco - - -	- 6,654	
Cigars - - -	- 3,423	
Wine - - -	- 851	
Tea - - - -	- 3,308	
	——	14,236
		———
		26,976

The increase in the produce of cereals and stock and the small decrease in population may possibly have occasioned the falling off as shown above in the import of such things as can be produced in the Colony, whilst the increase in cleared lands satisfactorily accounts for the larger importation of agricultural implements.

The increased importation of stud stock—150 horses, 15 bulls, 650 rams, 40 ewes, and 20 pigs, valued altogether at 10,332*l.*—shows an increasing confidence in the pastoral capabilities of the Colony, which should shortly be rewarded by the production of stock of a superior class.

The remarkable rise in the import of wool bales is highly satisfactory, as evidencing the rapid development of the wool-growing capacity of the Colony, as is shown under exports.

The principal exports were:—

		£
Gold, 3,493 ozs. - - -	value	13,098
Guano, 3,110 tons - -	„	12,440
Pearls - - - -	„	52,000
Sandalwood, 4,470 tons - -	„	33,525
Pearl shells, 1,146 tons - -	„	59,310
Skins (sheep, kangaroo, &c.) -	„	45,126
Timber, 10,515 loads - -	„	42,060
Wool, 8,475,240 lbs. - -	„	423,762

The gold given as exported is only that actually entered at the Customs, but the true amount would be probably far higher.

Pearl shells show a falling off of 51,115*l.*, in value.

Skins have risen from 16,959*l.* to 45,126*l.*

Whilst the timber export, which in 1887 was valued at 28,384*l.*, in 1888 reaches 45,126*l.*

The increase in the wool export is 89,976*l.*

10.—*Shipping.*

From British or foreign ports including steamers:—

			Tonnage.
266 vessels entered inwards in	1887	-	252,323
263 „ „	1888	-	402,807
248 „ outwards	1887	-	240,527
266 „ „	1888	-	409,586

shows an increase of almost double the tonnage.

11.—*Convict Establishment.*

Of all classes there were on the 31st December 1888 only 164 men remaining on the books. Of these only 80 were probation and re-convicted convicts still in prisons.

12.—*Agricultural.*

The area of land returned as in cultivation in 1888 is slightly greater than in 1887.

In 1887 the estimated area was 105,582 acres.
In 1888 „ „ 106,017 „

The stock returns show a considerable increase.

	Total Number in 1887.	Total Number in 1888.
Horses - - - -	41,100	41,390
Horned cattle - - -	93,544	95,822
Sheep - - - -	1,909,940	2,112,392

13.—*Land occupied for Pastoral Purposes.*

At the end of 1887, 123,361,085 acres were held under lease or license at a rental of 72,180*l.* At the end of 1888, 108,667,013 acres were held, for which 75,701*l.* was paid, producing 3,521*l.* more for rent.

Land Sales.—21,236 acres of rural land sold at 1,648*l.* (first payments) show a continued demand for ground fit for cultivation, and the sales of town lands at 3,956*l.* indicate capital seeking investment.

14.—*Legislation.*

The following statutes were passed by the Legislature:—

51ST VICTORIA (Session 1887–88).

No. 22.—An Act to amend "The Geraldton and Northampton Railway Act, 1873."

No. 23.—An Act to repeal "The Tariff Act, 1882," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 24.—An Act to amend "The Goldfields Act, 1886."

No. 25.—An Act to provide for the payment by the Colony of Western Australia of a proportional part of the cost of the establishment and maintenance of an additional Naval Force to be employed for the protection of the floating trade in Australasian waters.

No. 26.—An Act further to amend and extend 'The Telegraphic Messages Act, 1874." [Reserved 20th August 1887; Royal Assent proclaimed 29th February 1888.]

No. 27.—An Act to enable Crown lessees to proceed to arbitration in respect of compensation for improvements. [Reserved 20th August 1887; Royal Assent proclaimed 29th February 1888.]

No. 28.—An Act to appropriate the sum of three hundred and twenty-six thousand six hundred and twenty-two pounds one shilling and fourpence out of the general revenue of the Colony, for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight.

No. 29.—An Act to extend the powers of municipal councils, and to promote the paving of footpaths in municipalities, and for other purposes.

No. 30.—An Act to confirm the Beverley-Albany Railway contract, and the assignment thereof to the West Australian Land Company, Limited; and to define exactly the line of the said railway.

No. 31.—An Act for the purpose of further re-appropriating certain unexpended balances of certain moneys raised under "The Loan Act, 1884."

No. 32.—An Act for the incorporation and winding up of mining companies.

52ND VICTORIA.

No. 1.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, over and above the estimates for that year.

No. 2.—An Act to repeal the Act 38 Vict., No. 18, and to incorporate a new body of trustees of the Church of England in Western Australia.

No. 3.—An Act for the purpose of establishing a holiday to commemorate the foundation of Australia.

No. 4.—An Act to confirm certain expenditure for the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

No. 5.—An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to patents for inventions.

No. 6.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise.

No. 7.—An Act to amend the law respecting quarantine.

No. 8.—An Act for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of gold found in or procured from the soil of the Colony.

No. 9.—An Act to further amend "The Boat Licensing Act, 1878."

No. 10.—An Act to amend "The Poor Houses Discipline Act, 1882."

No. 11.—An Act to amend "The Scab Act, 1885," and to prevent the spread of disease in stock.

No. 12.—An Act for raising the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, to supplement the loan authorised to be raised under "The Loan Act, 1884."

No. 13.—An Act to confer upon the warden of a goldfield the powers of a licensing bench.

No. 14.—An Act to amend an Ordinance intituled "An "Ordinance to provide for the establishment of proper places "for the burial of the dead" (10 Vict., No. 12).

No. 15.—An Act to appropriate the sum of three hundred and twenty-one thousand three hundred and fourteen pounds six shillings and threepence out of the general revenue of the Colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

No. 16.—An Act to regulate the management of roads in Western Australia.

No. 17.—An Act to amend the law of distress.

No. 18.—An Act to amend "The Newspaper Libel and Registration Act, 1884."

No. 19.—An Act to enforce the provisions of arbitration contained in the land regulations of 1887.

No. 20.—An Act to amend "The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, 1884."

No. 21.—An Act to make provision for the construction of certain accommodation works on railways.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

15.—*Miscellaneous.*

The remaining tabular returns included do not demand any special review, though many interesting facts are recorded in them.

MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary

Perth, 5th August 1889.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 109.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 73.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

LONDON:
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1890.

[C.—5897.–39.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
59	Straits	1888
60	Natal	"
61	Gambia	"
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1888
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1888
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	1889
107	Barbados	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago	"

No. 109.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 73.]

Sir MALCOLM FRASER to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Perth,
June 19, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889, together with copy of the usual report thereon by the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Octavius Burt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1889.

From the Hon. the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to His Excellency the ADMINSTRATOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
June 7, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCT. BURT,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Malcolm Fraser, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

1.—*Revenue.*

The revenue for the year 1889 reached 442,725*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* as against 357,003*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* for 1888, being an increase for the year of 85,721*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*; of this, however, 60,512*l.* was a repayment from the loan of 1888 of moneys previously expended from general revenue on public works. The actual increase from ordinary

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

sources of revenue was therefore 25,209*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, chiefly derived from customs, land, harbour dues, postages and commission on money orders, telegrams, railway receipts, telephone receipts, Fremantle water receipts, revenue stamps, and special receipts.

2.—*Expenditure.*

The expenditure amounted to 386,000*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, or 871*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* more than the previous year, and 56,724*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* less than the year's revenue. Not calculating the 60,512*l.* refunded to revenue from loan moneys, the expenditure exceeded the revenue by 3,787*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* The repayment of the 60,512*l.*, however, enabled the year to close with a credit balance of 33,023*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, after paying off the deficit of 23,701*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* brought forward from the preceding year. The following items show an increase of expenditure as compared with 1888 :—surveys, customs, works and railways, harbour and light, administration of justice, printing, volunteers, special coast survey, roads and bridges, pensions, revenue service north-west coast, and loans public works.

3.—*Military Expenditure.*

The total expenditure on account of the volunteer department during the year ended 31st December 1889 was 3,697*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* The strength of the force on that date was 26 officers and 575 non-commissioned officers and men, an increase for the year of two officers and 85 men.

4.—*Public Debt.*

The public debt of the Colony at the close of the year stood at 1,371,981*l.*, or 31*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* per head of the population. Debentures to the amount of 19,800*l.* have been redeemed up to the close of 1889.

5.—*Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

9,946*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* was spent by the Works Department, as particularised at pages 125–129 of the Blue Book. On the 1st June the Great Southern Railway, 244 miles in length, was completed and thrown open for traffic. On the 31st December there were in all 485 miles 47 chains and 53 links of railway lines open for traffic, made up as follows :—190 miles 47 chains 53 links of Government lines, 51 miles of lines owned by timber companies, and 244 miles belonging to the Western Australia Land Company. The Government has also a short line of 15 miles 40 chains constructed from Bunbury to Timber Ranges, but not working, and Messrs. Millar Bros. are constructing a private line of 12 miles to Torbay.

The amount allotted to the various road boards, for the upkeep of roads and bridges, aggregated 10,954*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* In 1888 the amount was 8,372*l.* 10*s.*

6.—*Population.*

The estimated population on 31st December 1889 was 43,698. The increase by births over deaths was 983, while the increase of arrivals by sea over departures was 578. The increase to the population was therefore 1,561 for the year.

7.—*Imports and Exports.*

The estimated value of imports during 1889 totalled 818,127*l.* Customs duties amounted to 167,992*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, being an increase of 31,876*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* on the value of imports for 1888, and an increase in duties to the amount of 13,640*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

The value of exports was placed at 761,391*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* as against 680,345*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* for 1888. In 1888 the average value of wool exported was fixed at 1*s.* per lb.; in 1889 it was taken at 10*d.* per lb. This will account for the apparent falling off in the total value of this item of export. Tin ore appears amongst the exports for the first time in the history of the Colony.

8.—*Shipping.*

From and to British and foreign ports :—

	Vessels.		Tonnage.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Sailing vessels entered inwards -	99	143	35,862	39,354
Steam vessels entered inwards -	164	206	366,945	457,878
Sailing vessels entered outwards -	103	135	37,831	39,226
Steam vessels entered outwards -	163	210	371,755	468,360
Total - Inwards and outwards, sailing - -	202	278	73,693	78,580
Total - Inwards and outwards, steam - -	327	416	738,700	926,238
Grand total - -	529	694	812,393	1,004,818

9.—*Education.*

There were 3,310 children on the rolls of the Government schools, and 1,434 on the rolls of assisted schools. The average attendance in the former being 2,517, and in the latter 1,108. The cost per head was 2*l.* 14*s.* 9¾*d.* in the Government

schools and 1*l.* 8*s.* 4½*d.* per head in the assisted schools. The expenditure for the year reached 11,125*l.*, being 51*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* less than in 1888.

10.—*Criminal Statistics.*

There has been no appreciable diminution of crime during the year.

11.—*Convict Establishment.*

The number of men remaining on the books was 157, of whom 70 were in prison.

12.—*Agriculture.*

The following increases appear in the stock and produce returns:—horses, 1,416; cattle, 23,749; sheep, 254,289. The total estimated number on 31st December being:—horses, 42,806; cattle, 119,571; sheep, 2,366,681. The estimated acreage under cultivation (117,833) is 11,816 acres higher than in 1888, of which 197 additional acres are returned as under grape vines, and 4,777 additional acres under wheat.

13.—*Legislation.*

The following statutes were passed by the Legislature:—

52ND VICTORIA.

No. 22.—An Act to amend "The Roads Act, 1888."

53RD VICTORIA.

No. 1.—An Act to make further provision for the management and working of railways.

No. 2.—An Act for the re-appropriation of certain moneys appropriated for the purposes of the extension of the telegraph system to Kimberley Goldfields, Wyndham, and South Australian Border in the east Kimberley district.

No. 3.—An Act for the restriction of Chinese immigration.

No. 4.—An Act for the protection of fish.

No. 5.—An Act to deal with sand drifts and other nuisances.

No. 6.—An Act to further amend and to extend an Act intituled "An Act to regulate the admission in certain cases "of barristers of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, "&c."

No. 7.—An Act to protect telephones.

No. 8.—An Act to amend "The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1880."

No. 9.—An Act to reduce the duty on pearl shell, and for other purposes.

No. 10.—An Act to confirm certain expenditure for the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight.

No. 11.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforeseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine over and above the estimates for that year.

No. 12.—An Act to regulate life assurance.

No. 13.—An Act to enable municipal councils to construct waterworks, or to contract for a water supply.

No. 14.—An Act to extend the powers of trustees and others with reference to the investment of trust moneys.

No. 15.—An Act to amend "The Supreme Court Act, 1880."

No. 16.—An Act to render valid a certain loan raised by the Municipality of Fremantle, and to idemnify the said municipality against all legal proceedings consequent on any irregularity or illegality in the mode of the raising of the said loan.

No. 17.—An Act to partially repeal "The Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1873," and to repeal "The Law and "Parliamentary Library Amendment Act, 1885," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 18.—An Act to amend "The Wreck Act, 1887."

No. 19.—An Act to amend "The Postage Stamp Ordinance, 1854, Amendment Act, 1887."

No. 20.—An Act to refer two several matters to the Federal Council of Australasia for the exercise of Legislative Authority thereon.

No. 21.—An Act to appropriate the sum of three hundred and fifteen thousand two hundred and seventy-seven pounds thirteen shillings out of the general revenue of the Colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

No. 22.—An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the construction of tramways in the city of Perth.

Reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon:

A Bill intituled "An Act to confer a Constitution on Western "Australia, and to grant a Civil List to Her Majesty." [April 29th, 1889.]

A Bill intituled "An Act to provide for certain matters connected with the Aborigines." [April 29th, 1889.]

A Bill entituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to elections to the Legislature." [August 13th, 1889.]

14.—*Concluding Remarks.*

The additional quantity of land, 11,816 acres, brought under cultivation during the year, and the considerable increase of stock, especially sheep, is very satisfactory, as showing that the Colony is making steady progress in the direction which, more than all

other, is the surest and best indication of sound and material advancement.

The bright anticipations formed in the earlier part of the year in connexion with the working of our goldfields have not, it is to be regretted, been realised; but there are not wanting indications of a decidedly cheering nature to justify the belief that the Colony needs but capital and labour to reap an abundant harvest from her, at present, latent mineral wealth, and to start her on a course of greater vitality and progress.

Let us hope that 1890 with the inauguration of more general political freedom and responsibility will witness the turn in the tide so long waited for, which will bear the Colony onward into an ever-widening stream of prosperity.

OCT. BURT,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Perth, 7th June 1890.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 85.

BAHAMAS.

REPORTS

ON THE

FIBRE INDUSTRIES

OF

YUCATAN AND THE BAHAMAS

BY

GEORGE PRESTON, Esq.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1890.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1890.

[C.—5897.–15.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
35	British Honduras	1887
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888

No. 85.

BAHAMAS (FIBRE INDUSTRY).

Governor Sir A. SHEA to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
January 4, 1890.

MY LORD,

I BEG to enclose two printed copies of the report of Mr. Preston on his mission to Yucatan.

2. I have also the honour to forward to your Lordship twelve printed copies of the Commissioner's Report on the fibre industry of this Colony for 1889. It will be observed that the returns in the tabular statement refer to the dates of Mr. Preston's visits at the several settlements, and do not represent the present condition of the plantations, as the area of cultivation is constantly expanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Baron Knutsford,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

Enclosure No. 1.

REPORT OF GEORGE PRESTON, ESQ., ON HIS MISSION AS SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF YUCATAN TO INQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE FIBRE INDUSTRY IN THAT COUNTRY.

Nassau, N.P., Bahamas,
March 16, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the Report on my mission to Yucatan.

On my arrival at Progreso on the 19th January last I at once proceeded to the city of Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatan, where Mr. Vice-Consul Pierce resides, and the centre of the Sisal hemp industry.

Yucatan is 8,171 square leagues; the population of the State is 400,000, and of the city of Merida 45,000, with the death rate 45 to the 1,000. Seventy-five per cent., at least, of the population are Indians.

Attempts are being made to import labour into the country, but the chances of success are very slender, the climate being the drawback.

The temperature in the shade in summer is 95° to 96°, and in winter 70° to 85°; the rainy season is from May to September.

From Progreso to Merida, and for many miles beyond, the Peninsula is exceedingly flat, the Capital being only 14 feet

BAHAMAS.

above the level of the sea, and after a rainy night the streets of the city are rivers; the one opposite my hotel, all the time I was there, was never entirely free from water. During the winter months "northers" on the coast are frequent, and changes in the temperature then are very great, at midday 85° and after midnight often 55°, and in the early morning the fog is so dense you cannot see across the street. At sea, off the coast, it is the same, and vessels have to feel their way into port. All sanitary matters are neglected. In rainy weather Merida, in muddiness, exceeds anything I ever saw elsewhere, and in the dry season it is darkened by clouds of dust.

One cannot wonder that the population of such a country does not increase, or that foreign labour is difficult to introduce. That the natives are not long-lived is what (from their mode of living) might be expected. Their motto is "a short life and a merry one;" they know no rest, for when not at work they are at bull-fights, balls, in the cock-pit, at the opera or promenading in the parks, night being turned into day, and Sunday, above all the rest, the busiest for pleasure seekers.

The farmers no longer live on their hemp plantations, but in the city of Merida, driving their carriage and pair, their incomes, generally, the past year or so having gone up 200 per cent., and house property, especially, to a fabulous extent for investments, hemp leaving them a profit, *net*, of nine cents on each pound.

Before the industry took a start (about 1873) Yucatan grew cotton and raised considerable cattle, supplying Cuba with large quantities of dried or jerked meat for the slaves. Two or three years back the locusts destroyed all vegetation, cattle died off or had to be killed, and now they import cattle into the State for food.

The first shipment of hemp was 900 bales, and the following table shows what the trade has been the last nine years:—

	Bales.	$	cts.
1880	97,351	1,805,848	18
1881	139,433	2,726,565	88
1882	135,083	2,739,556	07
1883	178,976	3,537,507	18
1884	233,311	3,471,646	57
1885	244,746	3,334,811	81
1886	228,387	3,929,727	16
1887	219,105	5,894,429	84
1888	213,882	6,641,257	69

There are in Yucatan some 200 henequen farms of all sizes, the largest running 30 machines and employing 500 hands, and several others of 20 wheels or more. Many farmers' daily incomes are $500 to $2,000 clear profit.

STODDART'S PAMPHLET.

Mr. Stoddart's description of the plant is correct, the leaves have prickles or thorns on the edges; a leaf 4 feet long weighs $1\frac{10}{16}$ lbs., is in the widest part $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across from prickle to prickle and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness in the centre of the leaf; two feet from either end. A similar leaf from the fibre plant of the Bahamas weighs $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch thick. Of the two I prefer the leaf of the "Pita" of the Bahamas to the "Henequen" of Yucatan, which loses weight, as well as some fibre, by the removal of its thorns, and I have no doubt it will be found that the yield from the one will be equally as good as that from the other.

The plant has, seemingly, many names; for instance, in Yucatan the Spanish name is "henequen," the Indian "sacqui." Doctor Perrino who introduced it into Florida gave it the name of "agave sisalana," and in Cuba it is known as the "henequen" or "mayguey," another Indian name; but M. Jules Lachaume of the Acclimatization Garden, Havana, who in 1876, at the Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, exhibited 57 specimens of agaves, says it is known to botanists as the "Americana Mexicana."

A Jules Lachaume's Catalogue, p 11.

The "Americana Mexicana" is not the "Pita" plant of the Bahamas, but I believe it is to be found in the Island of New Providence. Its life does not, I think, exceed 20 years; of this, however, there seems at present no certainty about, for no farmer or other person in Yucatan, so far as I could learn, had taken the trouble to ascertain. One said 12, another 13, years in its cutting state, but what it really may be is of very little consequence, for the farmer knows from experience within a year or so when it can be no longer of any service to him, and with the suckers to his hand renews his field by setting out young plants between the old ones so that his number of acres are all the time, in good weather or bad, giving a crop, and he can calculate his income to a dollar—what no farmer in any other industry can do.

There is also a difference of opinion as to the time after being planted it arrives at its cutting state. While in Cuba I was surprised to learn that the henequen plant of Yucatan in that island matured two years sooner than it did in Mexico, and I was still more surprised when at Dunmore town with his Excellency to have pointed out to me trees only three years transplanted from which two cuttings had already been made; and further, to hear from a gentleman who spoke at the meeting that he then had ready for transplanting young plants from the mast or pole that were as large as a year and a half old sucker of Yucatan. This is evidence that our plant matures very much sooner than those in

BAHAMAS.

Yucatan, and with such a stock of old plants as there is known to be in the Colony now annually throwing out the pole with each a thousand, more or less, seed plants, in an almost incredibly short time there will be more stock in the Bahamas than the present population will be able to handle. Although they now have in Yucatan more plants than they can, with their labour, make use of, there was a time, even there, that they nursed these same seed plants of the pole, *and it is of the greatest importance that we, to increase the already numerous stock at several of our islands, should also nurse these "sons"* (as the Spaniard calls them) of the parent plant, millions of which have no doubt already been lost for want of care.

I agree with Mr. Stoddart that the younger the plant can with profit be transplanted the better. Older and stunted ones do not thrive so well, and, as he states, "old worked lands are known to give the best yield," is a certainty.

THE SORT OF LAND AND THE PREPARATION OF IT.

In the Bahamas with its thousands of acres of worn-out land there is no necessity of "hunting about the bush" for what suits the cultivation of the fibre plant, for everywhere are the "old worked lands" to be found. In travelling from Progreso to Merida one might easily imagine himself in many parts of these islands particularly Inagua, which, from its level and general appearance, so closely resembles that of Yucatan; the very bushes and button-wood swamps along the railroad reminded me of home, and even in the suburbs of Merida when I took my early walks abroad, I saw a striking resemblance to the "lots" of Grant's Town with the same kind of fruit trees growing in them. No one need go further than the grounds of Fort Charlotte along the road west of Nassau, or look into the lots on each side of Shirley Street leading to Fort Montague for the "sort of land" its cultivation requires; in fact, any land that is shallow, impoverished, and will grow nothing else suits it; *it is an air-plant*, requiring the ground only to hold it up, and M. Jules Lachaume, who some years ago was in Nassau, not only asserts that we have the best of land for its culture, but also we have as good, if not a better plant than the one in Yucatan. None but an insane person would dream of planting the henequen tree in pine-apple or any other useful land with so much idle or waste places everywhere. Nothing could possibly look poorer than the henequen belt of Yucatan, and there is no better way of testing the fertility of land than by the products therefrom, and in passing through Cuba I visited the markets, and on my arrival in Merida my first morning's walk was to the market there, and the difference in appearance and size of both vegetables and fruit of the two places was truly astonishing. In the former everything was Covent Garden like, whilst in the latter, the contrary, stunted and poor. A sweet-potato the size of a turkey's egg was a large one in the Merida market.

The only preparation the land needs is simply the felling of new, or clearing up of the old fields, destroying as much as possible the stumps and roots to lessen the after-expense of sprig-weeding, which is the only kind of weeding required after the plant is well up and able to take care of itself. The undergrowth of grass or weeds does no harm, but on the contrary, so the farmers of Yucatan believe, does good by being there. The sprig-weeding, say once a year for the first two years, and after that less frequently, should be attended to, *for the plant ought not to be shaded.* Nowhere about the henequen plantations or along the roadside is a tree or bush of any kind to be seen.

The cost per acre, to be very liberal, for the cultivation of this fibre plant from first to last, taking one land with the other, ought not to exceed 35*s.* to 2*l.*, and later on I shall be able to show the probable return for that outlay.

In some of our islands where cattle pastures exist, much of the land is already walled in; on other islands where there are no cattle, walls are not required.

FIELD PLANTING.

The system in planting varies, some of the old fields being 9 feet between the rows and 4 feet in the rows, while others were 10 and 5 but the hurricane of September last, from their close promixity to each other, resulted in 25 per cent. of the mature and maturing leaves being affected, so that now the distance is generally twelve and six, or about 600 plants to the acre. It is most important that this, to guard against hurricanes, should be borne in mind, *for bruised leaves means damaged fibre.* At one of the farms I visited, hands were being employed separating the bad from the good.

The distances I recommend are 11 × 6, or 650 plants to the acre.

The roots of young plants are treated in exactly the same manner as pine-apple slips, and suckers are "cleaned" before they are planted. Pine-apple planters will quite understand this.

It is desirable that the young plants be set out in perfectly straight rows and upright, for if not, and they grow up at angles in all directions, there will be no getting between them to gather the leaves of those ripe first.

AFTER CULTURE, POLE, &C.

I have already stated what, in my opinion, is all that is required with reference to the after culture of the field. It may be left to the farmer's own judgment how often the sprig-weeding should be done, and as to the suckers injuring the parent plant they, for some time to come, will be in such demand as not likely to obtain a growth sufficient to be injurious to the old plant.

It may be that if the leaves are not removed, the tree will prematurely pole, but I hardly think so, and fancy that both Mr. Stoddart and C. W. T. had this misrepresented to them, for

BAHAMAS.

I carefully questioned whether it was a part of the farmer's work to see from time to time to the removal of it, and I was satisfied from my inquiries that the pole did not make its appearance until its life was exhausted and it could no longer give forth leaves.

Experience alone can teach the farmer when the leaves are in cutting condition. Since the Yucatan hemp has increased in value, the farmers have been over-cutting, and much of the hemp in consequence is going to market with an extra green cast in it; but no grower who wants to make the most of his property, whether he extracted the fibre himself or sold the leaves by weight at the mill, should be so blind to his interest as to cut leaves, unless matured, only 2 feet long that at 4 feet would yield double. The length of the leaf cannot be of much importance, for at the works I saw many not over 18 inches long; whether the length of the fibre in ropemaking makes any difference the manufacturer alone can decide. As far as I could judge, measureing leaves by my walking stick, the average length was about 4 feet.

The knife for separating the leaf from the tree is one similar to those used by our pine-apple farmers, a sheath knife with a 6 to 8 inch blade. The crooked knife referred to is a kind of machete used for other field work; the cutter removes the prickles from the sides as well as the one at the tip of the leaf; another man carries the leaves, when near by, to the machine, or from the field to the road, from whence they are removed by carts or tramway.

1–9. Having thus dealt as far as I consider necessary with Stoddart's pamphlet, to further show everything better than it could possibly be described I submit the accompanying photographs.

MACHINERY IN USE AND WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHES.

The first farm I visited, "Chenkj," was running six of Death's fibre machines or wheels 50 inches in diameter, 8 inch face and eight knives or scrapers, driven by a No. 7,281 10 h.p. Marshall, Sons, and Co.'s stationary engine, and each wheel was cleaning the leaves at the rate of 20 to the minute or 8,000 per wheel for a day's work; two men at each wheel, standing between the wheel and rack containing the leaves, feed the machine as fast as their hands can move, one boy to two wheels supplies the feeders, and three others carry away the fibre to the drying ground adjoining. It is the most simple thing possible, requiring no skilled labour. *There is no water used either for soaking the leaves or washing the fibre*, which, after exposure to the sun for two hours, is fit for baling. The engine is driven by an Indian.

See Photo. No. 9.

As described by C. W. T. in "Guardian" and Stoddart at p. 16.

No. 10.

B. Brown and May.

Many of the engines are supplied by Brown and May, and the wheels are all from Death and Ellwood, Leicester. There are in the State of Yucatan very many machines and many engines, but no hand-power machines. The machines or wheels at

present in use have been working ever since they were first introduced 20 years ago; the knives or scrapers require renewing occasionally.

The working hours at this farm were from 4 a.m. to 12 noon, or earlier, if the 8,000 leaves to each machine were cleaned with an interval for breakfast. The fibre is all housed the same day, the machine men in the afternoon lending a hand in gathering it in from the drying ground. If the farm has a press it is properly baled; if not, it is hand-baled and sent to Merida at once, eight bales on a dray drawn by six mules, or by road and railway from the more distant farms and there re-baled or sold as it is.

Here was a farm cleaning daily 48,000 leaves or 72,000 lbs. of thecrude material, yielding 3,600 lbs. (5 per cent. fibre), costing at the farm 2½ cents per pound Mexican silver (33⅓ below gold), worth in Merida 10¾ cents gold.

What would it cost with the same machinery in the Bahamas?

ESTIMATE.

	$
36 tons leaves at $2.50 - - -	90.00
6 wheels, each two hands at 48 cents -	5.76
3 boys supplying feeders at 24 cents -	0.72
3 women removing and hanging out fibre at 30 cents - - - -	0.90
Engine driver at $2 - - -	2.00
Fuel - - - - -	2.00
Incidentals - - - -	2.00
	103.38

or, presuming the yield is the same, barely 3 cents per pound for an article the present value of which, in the foreign market, is 11 to 12 cents.

The next thing is to see what the grower can make out of it.

The trunks of the plants are not all one size, some being 15 to 18 inches in diameter, while others are not more than ⅔ of that; but as far as I could estimate, 40 leaves from each tree per annum is a fair calculation, thus we have each leaf being 1½ lbs. *See* Photo. No. 4.

40 × 650 = 39,300 lbs., or say 19 tons at $2.50 = $47.50 gross yield per acre for land otherwise useless.

Or a peasant farmer, with a large family, can, if he likes, by the present system of soaking the leaves, let his wife and children extract the fibre which he can get its cash value for in the market.

Unlike Yucatan, where there are no peasant proprietors—the henequen farms being owned by comparatively few persons, and are on a large scale— it would be impossible in the Bahamas for all growers to combine the two things, growing and extracting the fibre too, inasmuch as it requires 600 acres of matured fields to keep 6 "raspadores" going; but in a central position at each

BAHAMAS. island there could at least be one establishment of machinery where the small growers could dispose of their crops.

The boating of the leaves from the field to the depôt, like carrying pine-apples to the vessel, could not be more expensive than the way it is done by drays or tramways in Yucatan.

PLANTS AND HOW TO PROCURE THEM.

The doubt about procuring, and if procurable, the cost of transportation and loss by decay, is a difficulty in the way of introducing new stock into the Colony, and after much consideration given to this question it occurs to me, as we have in the "Pita" a plant equally as good, if not superior to the henequen of Yucatan, the best thing to do is, to extend its cultivation throughout the Colony, which might easily be accomplished by *carefully nursing the pole-seed plants.* I am much in favour of the "Pita" plant, believing it to be in every respect the best of the fibre-producing plants, and before I left Nassau to more than one of my friends I expressed a doubt if in my travels I should meet with a better, and I was glad to learn on my return that the hemp from it had a market value of 2 cents a pound over the Sisal hemp of Yucatan.

Everywhere around Merida, through Cuba, in private and public grounds, I searched for the "Pita" plant of the Bahamas, but nowhere could I find it, not even at the Botanical Garden in Havana, where I was told I should be sure to see it; and when, in answer to my inquiries, M. Jules Lachaume took me to that part of his grounds, where it was to be seen, his "Pita" turned out to be the Sanseviera or Langua de vacca, the fibre from which in London is worth 20 cents per pound. This plant is very common both in Havana and Merida, being much used as fences in public parks and gardens. It is sometimes called the spotted snake. M. Jules Lachaume offers 50,000 plants at 1 cent a piece. It is easily cultivated, and in three years its leaves are sufficiently long to give the fibre.

Labour being much cheaper in Yucatan than it is in the Bahamas we cannot compete with them in the first cost at the farm; but on the other hand we have less after expenses than they have, for instance, a farm 20 miles out of Merida has miles of costly transportation. 1. The cartage to the nearest railroad. 2. Railroad charges to Merida. 3. Drayage from depôt to warehouse. 4. Drayage from warehouse to railroad. 5. Railroad charges from Merida to Progreso. 6. Lighterage in large open schooners to steamers lying miles off the coast, and besides all this, there is also a State export, so that there need be no fear, even if present market value is not maintained about the Bahamas, not being able to compete with Yucatan in this industry; moreover our people are more thrifty and less extravagant in their mode of living.

The crop of Yucatan for 1889 is pretty much secured by the New York Cordage Co., and others, at prices ranging from 10 cents to 12½ cents.

The samples of hemp hammock, rope cordage, and bagging marked M are from Merida, and those marked H are from the Sisal hemp taken from a rope-walk in Havana. The quantity of hemp Cuba imports from Progreso is considerable.

M. Merida.
H. Havana.

Finding on my arrival at Havana there was no route other than viâ New York by which I could reach Jamaica, and learning for the first time that the fibre industry had been started in Cuba by a London Company, called the "Cuba Fibre Company, Limited," I considered it most important that I should learn all about it, and obtained from the Consul General an introduction to the Company's agent, Mr. Schútte, who not only gave me all the information I asked for, but his pamphlet as well having reference to it, the translation of which is appended hereto.

C. Consul General, Havana.

D. Schútte's Pamphlet and Translation.

In May last year this Company, at Principe, 80 miles inland from Neuvitas, planted 600 acres, 450 of the henequen and 150 with the Sanseviera, which to date, owing to the cost of plants collected in the mountain districts, stands the Company in between $10,000 and $15,000, and the manager informed me it was not their intention to extend the plantation till they had seen the result of what they had already done, but he said they had set out half a million of the seed plants from the pole for further stock should it prove a success.

Besides this company some private individuals have made a beginning. In all 600,000 suckers were planted last year.

I thought if this quantity of plants had been procured in one season I should have no difficulty in finding them in places of easier access than the mountains, and set to work searching in all directions out of Havana, but it was evident that the company had been before me, for it was only here and there I came across the right kind of plant. At one Sugar Estate I saw fences of them round the cattle pastures, and the owner informed me he had, from the stock accumulated, set out 30 acres last June. After spending several days over this, and seeing a leaf of the plant brought from Neuvitas, it occurred to me that perhaps among the numerous cays on the north side of the island I might find the plants in abundance, and I made up my mind to take the coasting steamer from Havana to Santiago, but there were difficulties in the way; first, the steamers did not remain at the several ports sufficiently long to enable one to explore the cays; secondly, the uncertainty of connexion with the steamer at Santiago.

As there was no satisfactory way other than going direct from Nassau to Neuvitas, and not knowing what his Excellency's intentions might hereafter be, to guard against any annoyances from the Spanish authorities, I waited, with the Consul General's introduction, on the General of Marine to ascertain how far one might venture on a botanical search in the Cuban waters. His Excellency received me most courteously, assuring me that, with proper papers from the Governor of the Colony and the Consul for Spain, showing what the object of the visit was, there would be no difficulty about navigating the waters round the island; and moreover stated, that when notified of the arrival at either of the

BAHAMAS.

ports, orders of protection should be issued to all the commanders of vessels of war there stationed; but beyond this his Excellency said he had no jurisdiction. That the landing upon any of the cays belonging to the Government would require the sanction of the Captain General.

The next day I called on the Cousul General to move officially in the matter, but he said it would be useless doing so, as the present Captain General was on the eve of leaving the island, and the new Captain General, expected this month, would not recognize anything his predecessor had done, and advised that if after my return to Nassau the scheme was still in contemplation, he should be officially communicated with, when no doubt the request would be granted.

I left specimens of the leaf with a friend at Batabano to try and find out from the sponge fishermen if the plant is in any quantities on the cays on the south side of the island.

At Cienfuegos, a few miles out of the city, I found a plant or two here and there in the fences by the roadside, and from Santiago I brought a full-grown plant resembling very much the henequen of Yucatan, which I gave to Mr. J. S. Johnson to experiment with, leaving instructions with Mr. Consul Ramsden at Santiago to ascertain quantity and probable cost, and to communicate with his Excellency the Governor.

PINE-APPLE INDUSTRY—CUBA.

Those unacquainted with this business in Cuba will be astonished to learn that there is more pine-apple land in one spot not many miles from Havana than all put together in the Bahamas. I was anxious to find out whether this business was on the increase, but the administration of the island is such it is impossible to gather any information from the officials, but the Consul said it was greatly on the increase and promised to inquire and communicate.

I visited some of the plantations and they astonished me; some are very extensive, one grower alone expecting to ship 50,000 dozen this year.

The export value of pine-apples, oranges, and bananas in 1887, taken from the Consul General's Official Report, was $397,637.54.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. PRESTON,
Special Commissioner to Yucatan.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Nassau, N.P.

THE LENGUA DE VACA AND THE HENEQUEN.

(*Translation from the Spanish.*)

TO OUR READERS.

The English Society, the Cuban Fibre Company, knowing that it is to their interest to develop in every possible way the cultivation of fibrous plants, proposes to aid the small proprietors by forming a project to supply the necessary resources so that they may be able to plant the Henequen and the Sanseveria. Several negotiations have been made on the plan of advancing the cultivator $500 gold for a lot of land as a sort of agreement, giving $250 at the conclusion of the planting, and the remainder a year after. To close the bargain a simple contract will be sufficient, which, without any other requisite, will be inscribed in the Register of Landed Estate, serving as a preventive mortgage according to law.

Many of our distinguished writers on agriculture, among whom we can cite Messrs. Bachiller, Reinoso, S. A. de Morales, and J. B. Jiménez have taken great interest not only in the numerous and exquisite textile plants contained in the Cuban flora, but in the great industrial utilities afforded us by husbandry. Their writings on the matter can be consulted with benefit to our agriculturists, but at this time when there is to be constituted a Society for furthering the cultivation, the reviewers of agriculture think it opportune and useful to publish a supplement or short letter that will enable them to comprehend the practical march that must follow those who wish to devote themselves to the cultivation of the Henequen and the Lengua de vacca.

There are tracts of land in Cuba so poor of resources, the owners of which cannot plant them with cane, because there are no centrales (depôts) that will buy them; in these the cultivators who follow a life of want and misery can find the means of getting out of their precarious situation by devoting themselves to the cultivation of some industrial plants, the produce of which is of more value to-day in comparison with sugar, and for which there is more demand and less difficulty of cultivation in respect to the quality and richness of the soil.

If the Farmers' Society succeeds in establishing in this country a new industry, they will have fulfilled one of their missions.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

In general thesis the cultivation of textile plants is only possible in certain and determined economical circumstances because they require fertile lands which get considerably drained and do not leave any residue to serve as manure, but the Lengua de vaca and

BAHAMAS.

Henequen, of which we are going to speak, offer the important advantage of growing in these dry lands (even in the Savannas) which are not applicable to other cultivations, and not the least important for this special organisation, at the expense of the elements, impoverishing very little of the land in mineral substance, and finally resisting, like no other, the inclemencies of the weathe .

By the facts that we have been able to gather, our cultivators may be convinced of the considerable benefit they will obtain at the end of two years from one lot of land planted with the Henequen or Lengua de vaca.

The work of planting is limited to making a furrow or a hole in the ground at a convenient distance, and the care of the culture is confined to weeding the grass while the plant is yet unrolled; afterwards it will of itself keep the weeds off.

The collection of the matured leaves is very easy; each man in Yucatan cuts 1,500 in a day and puts them in bundles of 30.

The removal of the fibre is very simple and quick, thanks to the machines invented for that purpose.

Among these we may mention those made by Mr. Death, which have proved satisfactory in India and other countries, contributing to develop considerable wealth. Our readers are acquainted with the success of these machines in Madrid, at the edifice of the Filipinas Exposition, with the Abaca and the Henequen of Manilla, and those made at Leicester, England; and in consequence, the formation of the Cuban Fibre Company, Limited, has established to-day its field of action.

The cultivation of these plants does not require the constant attention of the cultivator, who can devote himself to other cultivasions. In one month, either in the spring or in the rainy season, you can plant hundreds of shoots or young plants that will give a considerable production.

In certain parts of the island the peasant proprietors with industrious habits may find in the cultivation of textile plants the means of improving their condition and securing to themselves a livelihood and small capital.

CULTIVATION OF THE SANSEVERIA GUYANENSIS.

This plant, commonly known by the names of Lengua de vaca, Piel de Majá, and Oreja de Burro, according to the localities, produces an excellent textile fibre, and its cultivation is simpler and easier than any other Cuban industrial plant.

Land

Most of the lands are suitable for the cultivation of the Sanseveria. The clayish land produces fibre with less strength and durability; the stony calcareous lands are very good, but the dry and sandy are the best because in these the roots grow easily.

Preparation of the Ground.

Consists in a good tillage, to well powder the ground.

Next proceed to subdivide the land by a foot path of one metre to facilitate the work. At each extremity of these tracks leave a pathway of 3 metres for the transit of the carts conveying leaves.

Propagation.

The Sanseveria can be propagated by sticks, by roots, and by seeds.

By Sticks.

All the pieces obtainable from the aerial parts of the plant (which at that time takes the name of mother plant), and which planted will take root constituting a stick or piece. In the Sanseveria the sticks arise from the leaves, which are very fleshy, containing the sap necessary for the formation of the roots.

To prepare the sticks, divide the leaves—which generally are one or two metres high—by means of a slanting cut, in pieces of 15 centimetres, which are then planted one against the other in a nursery already prepared, or in boxes containing river sand or light earth ; irrigate after planted and keep shaded.

The fatty substance the leaf contains descends to the base of the stick preserving at this point constant freshness, and at the end of a certain time forms a cord which hardens and gives birth to the roots, and later on to the shoots, which constitute new plants.

For this operation to give good results it is indispensable that the leaves reach all their maturity.

By Roots.

The propagation by roots, or better called subterranean shoots, can be obtained by two methods : either separate the shoots which surround the foot of the mother plant, which planted immediately and quickly form new and strong plants; or divide them in pieces of 4 to 8 centimetres long, which, possessing various eyes or buds, produce numerous aerial shoots.

By Seeds

This method is only made use of in case of final necessity, then the plants are not unrolled until the second year after saving.

Moreover, at the time of fructification all the life of the plant is found in the ovary of the flower, which is where the sap accumulates in detriment to the roots, preventing them having new shoots and thus lessening the crop as the leaves give the textile fibre which is the object of cultivation. The floral stem should be suppressed as soon as it tends to develop the flower, and propagation by sticks or pieces is preferable. Planting.—Let us suppose

BAHAMAS.

that the tracks formed for preparing the ground are 50 metres in length and are conveniently marked by lanes or pickets. At 50 centimetres at the side you open one furrow 8 centimetres deep with an American plough, and at the same distance you go on making new furrows until you have all the land prepared.

The young plants already prepared you arrange in these, opened at the distance of 50 centimetres from each other.

This planting should be done in the spring or in the rainy season when the ground is moist and fresh; they will then keep in good condition from 10 to 15 years.

During the first year you may plant two grains of corn between each plant of the Sanseveria; this, as we know, quickly grows, and will protect the plants, giving them shade and later on gives a good crop of grain; after which the ground should be cleaned of weeds.

In the second year you hoe the ground once or twice until the plants join, protecting themselves against the weeds.

Crop.

The leaves of the Sanseveria will give four crops a year every three months, and then only the ripe leaves should be cut, generally measuring from 4 to 5 feet, or one metre 25 centimetres, more or less, and they will contain fibre well formed and of good quality.

You can also gather the crop once a year in September, but you stand the chance of not having the leaves ripe, for if the work is not done with care and necessary attention, it will require at the time a greater amount of labour; also, running the risk of withering the leaves, making it more difficult to extract the fibre.

The work is done by hand by the use of the cutlass.

Yearly Produce.

Considering that in each lot there are 134,200 square metres, excluding the paths and avenues, and taking the production of 50 leaves to the square metres, that gives 1 lb. of fibre, we can obtain the minimum of 33 tons per lot, which at the price quoted in England of $175 represents $5,777, and supposing (which is too much) 60 per cent. for expenses, there would be left the important benefit of $2,322 per lot.

HENEQUEN (AGAVE AMERICANA).

The fibre that this plant produces, although thick, is very strong, and is used in the manufacture of cords and cables.

Ground.

This hemp is unrolled in exuberance in the very poorest ground, even among the rocks and hills, as long as the roots find a sufficient quantity of sand and lime, which are the substances

constituted to give the fibre the necessary tenacity and elasticity for industrial applications, and that the ground is not excessively damp.

Preparation of the Ground.

This plant does not require any preparation of the ground, as the Sanseveria does, but it would be as well to give it a light tillage to facilitate the absorption of the atmospheric elements which is expedient for its growth.

Propagation.

The Henequen can be grown from young plants and slips.

We will see the difference between them. About the period of the flowering of the plant there grows from its centre an axis or scope which is five or six yards in height. At the higher part it throws out a branch with flowers from which falls the young plants that are scarcely an inch in size. In the light nuts from the floral axis appear small shoots that grow very easily.

In a well-developed crop it will be as well to utilize only the young shoots, because the floral axis should be cut off before it flowers so as to favour the growth of the last leaves.

Except when in the propagation of the cultivation there is no necessity to make the plant suffer by the amputation of its floral axis.

The young plants and shoots which are less than 8 inches should be planted in a special nursery.

The shoots, which are 16 or 18 inches, require two years for development; the young plants four years.

Planting.

The planting of the Henequen is done in the months of September and October. Proceed to make holes of 8 or 9 inches depth at the distance one from the other of 10 English feet, and in lines separated also by 10 English feet; so that each plant is in the centre of a square of 10 feet from the side.

A hoeing and settling of the ground in the first or second year if you have transplanted young plants; and two rakings, if of shoots, is the only care required for this planting; the plants, once developed,will protect each other from the weeds.

The illustrious writer, Señor Don J. B. Jiménez, in his work on the adventures of an overseer, from which we take the principal facts, is of opinion that a year after the planting of the shoots horses may be turned into the fields, because the teeth of these animals serve as economical machets to keep the weeds down and thus reduce the expenses of the cultivation.

Cattle and sheep do not injure the leaves of the Henequen; but if the land is barren, they will eat the young leaves that grow over the roots of the leaves of the mother plant.

Yearly Produce.

A lot of land planted with 25,000 plants will produce at the end of the second year two crops yearly, which, supposing eight leaves to each plant, choosing those nearer to the ground, will be 400,000 leaves, and calculating six leaves to give 1 lb. fibre, you will obtain in one year 70,000 lbs.

Enclosure No. 2.

REPORT OF GEORGE PRESTON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, ON THE FIBRE INDUSTRY OF THE BAHAMAS.

Nassau, N.P.,
December 17, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my Report, &c. on the fibre industry of the Colony.

After receiving my commission, 3rd May, I proceeded to the prosecution of my duties on the 18th of the same month, completing the work of my mission on the 4th instant, having visited all the islands and many of the cays, as per return appended hereto.

At 37 of the principal Settlements I held public meetings, instructing the people in every particular, and representing to them the advantages of cultivating the plant, and in every instance there was evidence that my visit was appreciated, and it affords me much pleasure to convey to his Excellency the thanks of the public for this means of enlightening it in respect to the enterprise, for in many of the remote parts of the Colony little or nothing is known of what is going on in New Providence; and I have no hesitation in stating that the work I have just completed has not only given an impetus to the industry and been already a gain to many, but it has been the means as well of saving considerable stock which, hitherto treated as a weed, would have been destroyed and lost but for my timely visits.

The Pita plant I found at all the islands as far to windward as Rum Cay. The more easterly islands—Watling's, Crooked Island, Acklins, Inagua, and Mayaguana have no old stock. The islands most favoured in this respect are Abaco, Harbour Island, Long Island, and Rum Cay.

The stock of old plants now known to exist in the Colony exceeds by far the expectations of the most sanguine in March last, and it is to these old plants we have in the first instance to look for an early supply.

At the termination of the existence of the plant a pole about 16 feet long comes out from its centre, upon the branches of which small plants grow to an average number of a thousand to each plant, and in my Report on the fibre industry of Yucatan I

suggested, with the view of increasing the stock, the desirability of nursing these pole-plants, and wherever I found the old plants I advised the owners of them, if they had not already, as many had done, acted on my Report, to establish nurseries, by which means a large stock of plants is being secured; and where there are old plants there is now quite a business, and a profitable one too, arising out of it, and what but a few months ago was treated as an *obnoxious weed of no value whatever* is to-day worth more than any other plant in the Colony, for every pole at the present time is good for $20 a piece and the growth of these pole plants is, I find, more rapid than the suckers or shoots which grow from the roots of the plant; so that from the number of old plants that will pole this winter, added to those saved from this year's poles, together with the suckers from the plants already set up, there must be an enormous increase of stock even in 1890, and in 1891 there will be quite enough plants to keep the industry progressing on a large scale, and very soon the supply will exceed the demand.

The acreage set up is difficult to ascertain. Each island, and very often each grower, has a different rule, and I found the distances the plants were set apart varied considerably. At Harbour Island it was generally 6 × 6, at other places 10 × 10; again at the larger plantations at Abaco and New Providence 12 × 8 and 11 × 6, and in many places where the ground is very uneven there is no rule at all.

Averaging them at the distances recommended by me, *i.e.*, 11 × 6, the plants set up represent about 1,500 acres, but since I visited many of the places where the industry there was only in its infancy, rapid strides have been made; for instance, at the Munroe plantation, Abaco, they were just making preparations; when I was at Green Turtle Cay, 1st August, and the end of September, Mr. Trumble informed me he had 130 acres set up. The Bahamas' Hemp Company, New Providence, with over 300 acres, is more than double what it was when I saw it last, and on my returning from the windward islands this present month I touched at Rum Cay, and there many acres more had been added since I visited that island before. The same may be said of many other places, and my return therefore is merely approximate, but from the best information obtainable I estimate that by the end of this year there will be at least 3,000 acres set up. The quantity put under cultivation this year has been much restricted owing to the want of plants, but the prospect of an abundant supply of stock coming on in the next and future years will show a rapid and extensive progress.

At Dunmore Town, Harbour Island, I examined the plants that in March last were stripped of their leaves (except two or three of the centre ones) for the fibre, and found that they had put out again since fully 40 leaves which will be cut early in 1890, thus showing that the "Pita" gives a crop equal to the Yucatan plant.

The reaping of the crop only once a year instead of removing the leaves as they mature is (and I have called particular

BAHAMAS. attention to this) a great mistake, for it is a loss in two ways; the loss in length of leaf by removing them before they have obtained their full growth, and the loss of fibre by passing through the machine leaves not in cutting condition and too tender to bear the strain, being in fact little better than water.

When the leaves are horizontal from the trunk they are ripe. So long as they are upright they are unfit to cut.

There is gross carelessness, too, in the cutting of the leaves, which at the trunk end are so much thicker than at any other part, and an inch or two saved here is worth a foot at the other end, and, besides, it is said the leaving of these stumps to the trunk injures and shortens the existence of the tree. The cutter when removing the leaves should cut them as close to the trunk as possible. One is surprised to find often from 2 to 4 inches of the best part of the leaf left, for common sense ought to show any one the part of the leaf where the most fibre is; I have often seen instances where, if the leaves had been properly removed, it would have made a difference of 5 or 6 per cent. of fibre.

The excuse of making but one crop of the cutting is because the quantity to be obtained from the few old plants is insufficient to keep the machinery going all the year round. It is not likely to be the practice at the plantations hereafter.

I have not yet been able to arrive at the probable life of the plant, for no person has taken sufficient interest in what was a weed. I have recently seen a plant only five years transplanted that will pole and end its life this winter, but I could not learn how old the plant was when set up; it probably was a very old plant, then again it will be some time yet before anything positive is known as to the number of years its life is prolonged by the removal of the leaves.

It will not be from the early plantations that any reliable data can be established, for in them are plants of all ages, the demand for them having been so great that anything offered was readily bought up, and many of the so-called suckers were nothing more or less than old stunted trees of many years' growth, many of which, I believe, will pole before any results are obtained from them; it can only be from the plantations set up from these first fields, with suckers of the same age, that can settle this and other queries, for there are many things yet to be learnt that require both time and experience.

I am often asked if this, that, and the other kind of land is suitable for the growth of the plant, and all that I can say in reply is that I have found it in a flourishing condition on the top of a stone wall and in the bay-sand within a few feet of high-water mark, therefore I consider one may venture to plant it almost anywhere.

My recent mission has given me an opportunity of comparing the Bahamas with Yucatan, and I have come to the conclusion that the conditions for the success of the enterprise are certainly as good, if not better than Yucatan. There will not be perhaps such good results from the first fields as there are from the long established plantations of Yucatan, and it cannot be expected, for

there the lands are clear of all wood, to clear which in our forest lands is a heavy charge in the first instance; but taking one thing with the other there is no reason that I can see why this Colony should not compete with Yucatan or anywhere else.

The Islands of Abaco, Inagua, Andros, and New Providence are the best adapted for large plantations, for these islands have much level lands capable of being worked by tramways. The narrow islands, like Eleuthera, San Salvador, Long Island, c. can be quite as easily worked along the seaboard by water carriage; roads, however, are everywhere needed, for without them much of the lands will be inaccessible.

When at Harbour Island my attention was called to the reservations for public roads at Dunmore Town, which, if not clearly defined, owners of adjacent lands may encroach upon them.

In my 30 years' experience in this Colony no new industry was ever so generally taken hold of, or had the rapid growth of this enterprise.

Pine-apple Fibre.

On the 5th October last, at Governor's Harbour, there was a public meeting of pine-apple growers with reference to the fibre from the leaves of the pine-apple trees, millions of which yearly decay, and it was estimated that, without injury to the trees, the value of fibre that might annually be saved would be equal to half the export value of the fruit.

I have promised the growers I will do all I can for them in working the question up, and I am waiting to see Mr. Death again about suitable machinery, which I hope to see established there early in the ensuing year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. Preston,
Commissioner.

RETURN showing the ESTIMATED EXISTING STOCK and NUMBER of PITA or BAHAMA HEMP PLANTS set up, &c. at the time of the COMMISSIONER'S visit to the several ISLANDS and CAYS in the COLONY.

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
ABACO.	July -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	Old plants very fine; leaves often 6 to 7 feet long. A great many will mast or pole this winter. Supposed to be considerably more stock scattered about this large island than this return shows. In 1888 the Local Boards of Health at Hope Town and Cherokee Sound, for sanitary reasons, destroyed large quantities of the old plants.
Cherokee Sound -	- - -	3,000	—	—	—	—	4,500	1,000	8,500	- - -	—	
Old Niel's Creek -	- - -	20,000	2,000	—	5,000	10,000	—	—	37,000	- - -	—	
Sweeting's Village -	- - -	700	—	—	—	500	2,000	500	3,700	- - -	—	
Hope Town - -	- - -	—	—	20,000	10,000	20,000	—	4,000	54,000	- - -	—	
Man O'War Cay -	- - -	300	—	—	—	—	3,000	600	3,900	- - -	—	
Marsh Harbour -	- - -	42,000	—	—	—	—	7,000	—	49,000	- - -	—	
Great Guano Cay -	- - -	1,300	—	7,000	—	20,000	—	100	28,400	- - -	—	
Green Turtle Cay -	August -	100,000	—	—	—	—	3,000	3,000	106,000	- - -	—	
Nimjack Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	300	—	100	400	- - -	—	
Cedar Harbour -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	- - -	—	
Long Rock - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	300	—	100	400	- - -	—	
Allan's Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	4,000	3,000	3,000	10,000	- - -	—	
Tartar Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,000	5,000	- - -	—	
Spanish Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	- - -	—	
Soldier Road - -	- - -	—	40,000	—	10,000	—	—	—	50,000	Abaco - -	357,330	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
ANDROS.	October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	Mr. Alexr. Keith, of Edinburgh, who, but a few weeks settled at Conch Sound, had 35 acres prepared and three acres set up. Others engaged in the enterprise are:—Messrs. J. S. Johnson, George Johnson, Butler and Bode, and Webb and Christie of Nassau. The people of the island are occupied in the sponge fishery.
Galding Cay												
Long Bay Cay		80,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	80,000		—	
Bight of Deep Creek		—	—	—	—	—	20,000	—	20,000		—	
Mangrove Cay		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Wood Cay		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Conch Sound		2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000		—	
Mastic Point		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Fresh Creek		500	—	—	—	—	—	—	500		—	
Nicoll's Town		6,000	—	—	—	—	4,000	90	10,090	Andros	112,590	The people of this island, who are depending on the market for the sale of woods, sponge, and bark, are very ready to cultivate if they had land and plants.
ACKLIN'S.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Pompey Bay		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Snug Corner		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Spring Point		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Bight		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Acklin's	Nil	Some 50 plants seeded April and May, and an acre of land is covered with them.
BIMINI.	August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Township, &c.		11,000	—	—	—	2,000	6,000	13	19,013	Bimini	19,013	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island,		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
CROOKED ISLAND.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	Occupation of the people (males): employed by the passing steamers as labourers.
Long Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Bird Rock - -	- - -	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	Crooked Island	1,000	
ELEUTHERA.	September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	Except at Gregory Town there are no old plants on the island, and most of the people being engaged in the pine-apple business they move slowly in any new industry while they are satisfied with the old.
Governor's Harbour -	- - -	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	- - -	—	
Rock Sound - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Tarpum Bay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Savannah Sound -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Palmetto Point -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Whymm's - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Millars' - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Pear Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Bluff - - -	- - -	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	- - -	—	
Current - -	- - -	8,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,000	- - -	—	
Gregory Town -	- - -	1,200	—	—	—	—	10,000	700	11,900	Eleuthera -	32,900	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
EXUMA.	June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	This island is far better adapted to the fibre industry than it is for grazing, the so-called pastures being worn out as the quality and condition of the cattle manifest.
George Town		12,000	—	—	8,000	—	2,000	200	22,200	- - -	—	
Rolle Town		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Roker's		1,400	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,400	- - -	—	
Hart's		700	—	—	—	—	—	—	700	- - -	—	Most of the young plants were finding their way to Nassau.
Rolleville		—	—	—	—	—	—	100	100	- - -	—	
Stephen Town		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Moss Town		3,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	4,000	- - -	—	
Little Exuma		—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	Exuma -	28,430	
GRAND BAHAMA.	August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	The weather being stormy I was unable to visit the east part of the island.
West End		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Eight-mile Rock		—	—	—	—	—	4,000	50	4,050	Grand Bahama	4,050	
HARBOUR ISLAND.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	The industry well advanced two years hence, or in 1891, considerable hemp will be exported
Dunmore Town, &c.		134,000	—	—	3,500	—	139,000	17,000	293,500	- - -	—	
Spanish Wells		3,000	—	—	—	—	—	50	3,050	Harbour Island	296,550	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
INAGUA.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	--	No old stock but soon will be plenty of plants from those set up by Mr. Sargent four to five years ago. Unable to land on the north side.
Mathew Town, &c. -	- - -	—	2,000	—	12,000	50,000	16,000	—	80,000	- - -	—	
Bonefish Line - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	--	
Jack Line - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Inagua .	80,000	
LONG ISLAND.	May & July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	--	The inhabitants are very much scattered. The young plants being sold for Nassau; had heard very little about the industry prior to the Commissioner's visit.
Clarence Town -	- - -	4,000	—	200	50	—	—	—	4,250	- - -	--	
Stephens - -	- - -	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	- - -	--	
Deadman's Cay -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000	2,000	- -	--	
Bight - - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- -	--	
Simms' - - -	- - -	3,000	—	—	—	—	14,000	300	17,300	- - -	—	
North End - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	Long Island -	27,550	
MAYAGUANA.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	Very small and poor population. Would engage in the industry if they could afford to get the plants.
Betsy Bay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	
Abraham Bay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mayaguana -	Nil.	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
NEW PROVIDENCE.	November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	The rapid growth of the industry here is very encouraging. The greater part of the stock set up has been obtained from the out-islands.
Blue Hills - -	- - -	60,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	60,000	- - -	—	
Pine Barren - -	- - -	160,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	160,000	- - -	—	
East - - -	- - -	27,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,000	- - -	—	
West - - -	- - -	226,000	—	—	10,000	—	70,000	—	306,000	- - -	—	
Fox Hill - -	- - -	7,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,000	New Providence	560,000	
RAGGED ISLAND.	June -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	There will soon be stock from the old plants. The young plants bought up for Nassau.
The Settlement -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	200	- - -	—	
Nurse Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	200	- - -	—	
Raccoon Cay - -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ragged Island	400	
RUM CAY.	May -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	From the number of old trees soon to seed, the islands to windward will be able to get stock from this island
Port Nelson - -	- - -	13,000	—	—	—	—	41,000	13,000	67,000	- - -	—	
Black Rock - -	- - -	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	Rum Cay -	68,000	

Return showing the Estimated Existing Stock, &c.—*continued.*

The Islands, Settlements, and Cays.	When Visited.	Set Up.				Suckers.	In Nurseries.	Old Plants.	Total for each Place.	For each Island.		Remarks.
		Present Year.	Two Years old.	Three Years old.	Four Years old.					Island.	Total.	
SAN SALVADOR.	May and June.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	The people only want plants; are quite anxious to be engaged in the enterprise.
North End - -	- - -	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,000	- - -	—	
Arthur's Town -	- - -	5,000	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	7,000	- - -	—	
Bennett's Harbour -	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	- - -	—	
Roker's - -	- - -	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	200	3,200	- - -	—	
Bluff - - -	- - -	1,000	—	—	—	—	1,000	700	2,700	- - -	—	
Smith's Bay - -	- - -	400	—	—	—	—	200	—	600	- - -	—	
Bight - - -	- - -	13,000	—	—	—	—	—	50	13,050	- - -	—	
Port Howe - -	- - -	2,000	—	—	—	—	6,000	600	8,600	San Salvador -	37,162	
Total - -	- - -	971,800	46,000	27,200	58,550	107,100	355,700	56,025	1,624,975	- - -	1,624,975	

In addition to the above may be added 400,000 more from the 400 old plants with poles at the different islands.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Nassau, N.P.

G. PRESTON,
Commissioner.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

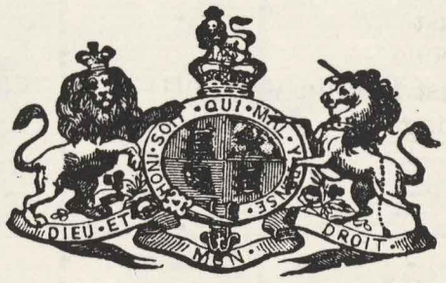
No. 95.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 55.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.–25.]

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
46	Newfoundland	1887
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889

No. 95.

BAHAMAS.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 55.]

Sir A. SHEA to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.,
April 7, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1889. It is, on the whole, the record of a very satisfactory year, but if the fibre industry had not already begun to tell on the trade and finances of the Colony, the position of affairs would be most embarrassed, for the pine-apple crop was sold for little more than half its average value, and there was no material increase in our other resources to make good the deficiency. When therefore, we find that, notwithstanding this greatloss, the revenue is a little above the average, there is solid ground for the conviction entertained by all classes of the community that the day of a great and permanent prosperity has already dawned on the Bahamas.

2. The revenue for 1889 was 46,230*l.*, which is 1,270*l.* over the estimate, and this was supplemented by a balance of 3,706*l.* from 1888, making an available total of 49,936*l.* The expenditure was 48,476*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,460*l.* to be carried to the credit of 1890.

Crown Lands.

3. (*a.*) A gratifying proof of the rise in land values in this Colony is afforded by the Crown land revenue for 1889, which, including a balance of 57*l.* 7*s.* from 1888, amounted to 961*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* Of this 474*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* was received as proceeds and arrears of sales, and 294*l.* 10*s.* for rent of Crown lands.

(*b.*) The year's expenditure was 1,087*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and the deficit of 125*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* was covered by an advance from Salt Pond revenue of 200*l.*, which has since been refunded.

(*c.*) The receipts from rents on Crown lands, although not affording so large an immediate return as would have been derived from the sale of the lands in question, represent a permanent addition to the revenue.

Salt Ponds.

4. This account remains in the unpromising position it has occupied for some years past. The receipts, including interest on the 1,200*l.* of 4 per cent. Treasury debentures, amounted to

o 62718. Wt. 19305.

BAHAMAS.

58*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure was 93*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* The amount now at the credit of this fund is 1,560*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

5. There was on the 31st of December 1888 a balance to the credit of this fund of 976*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The receipts in 1889 amounted to 389*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and the payments to 2,379*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* leaving a balance against the fund at the end of the year of 1,013*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, which became a charge on the general revenue of the Colony, which must continue to bear the obligations on this account.

Post Office Savings Bank.

6. (*a.*) The total amount of deposits for the year 1889 was 2,439*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, and the withdrawals during the same period were 1,891*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

(*b.*) The Post Office Savings Bank has not hitherto been on a satisfactory basis, as the accounts are kept in two places, the Postmaster receiving moneys, and the Receiver General disbursing them. The result of this has been to multiply the chances of error, and unfortunately to afford facilities for fraud, as in the case of the late Postmaster T. N. G. Clare, whose defalcations in this department were to the extent of 529*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* It has been decided to abolish this faulty system, and the accounts will in future be kept by the Postmaster.

(*c.*) From the establishment of the Savings Bank here in 1886 to the 31st of December 1889, the expenditure proper has exceeded the revenue by 196*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* There is a balance of 38*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* on the account for 1889 against the institution, which is a better statement than those of previous years, but is still on the wrong side. Moreover, the salaries of the Post Office officials were increased by 100*l.* per annum when the duties connected with the Savings Banks were imposed on them, and this charge on the general revenue ought properly to be defrayed by the department for which the service is required. The Government will use every effort to render the Post Office Savings Bank a self-supporting institution, but complete success in this respect can hardly be attained until the establishment is free from the loss now incurred by remitting funds to England.

Public Debt.

7. The public debt remains the same as in 1888, the total on the 31st of December 1889 being 83,126*l.*, of which 48,126*l.*, re-issued under Act 51 Vict. cap. 9., pays interest at 4 per cent., and the remainder, 35,000*l.*, issued under authority of the Crown Agents in London, at 4½ per cent. For the redemption of this latter loan a sinking fund was established of one per cent. per annum, the amount to the credit of which was 1,412*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* at the end of 1889, and will be applicable to drawings in 1890.

Legislation.

8. There were 25 Acts passed by the Legislature in the general session of 1889, one of which, Act 52 Vict. cap. 18, "An Act to authorise the issue of commissions to examine witnesses in certain cases," was disallowed by Her Majesty's Government.

The following Acts require especial notice :—

1. Act 52 Vict. cap. 14.—"To provide for the performance of "a mail service between Nassau and certain islands of this "Government by steam vessels."

2. Act 52 Vict. cap. 21.—"To consolidate and amend the laws "relating to the police force of the Colony."

3. Act 52 Vict. cap. 22.—"To prohibit the purchase of fibrous "plants, except under certain restrictions, and for other purposes."

4. Act 52 Vict. cap. 25.—"To prohibit the exportation of "fibrous plants."

5. Act 52 Vict. cap. 27.—"To consolidate and amend the "various laws relating to the Civil and Judicial Establishments "of the Colony."

The first-named Act authorises the Governor in Council to enter into negotiations for the performance of the service in question, in aid of which the balance of the accumulated Crown Funds is at the disposal of the local government. The second Act was directed to reorganise a department which had become inefficient, and to render it adequate to the increasing requirements of the Colony. Acts 3 and 4 were introduced to protect the interests of the fibre industry in view of the high prices realised by the plants, which led to robberies from the plantations, and to offers from abroad, which, if accepted, would have denuded the Colony of much valuable stock.

Population.

9. The population for 1889 is estimated at 49,500, allowing for a return to the Colony of many of the labourers from the Panama Canal. The births and deaths were 1,878 and 887 respectively, the rates being 43·15 and 20·38. So low a death rate indicates an exceptionally healthy climate, and this is a consideration which should weigh with those who may contemplate coming here to engage in our new industries.

Education.

10. (*a.*) There are 37 Government schools, a new one having been opened in 1889. The total number of pupils on the rolls was 5,221, and the average daily attendance 3154·8. In addition to the above there are 10 aided private schools with a total of 852 scholars, and an average daily attendance of 469·3. The

unassisted private schools number 35 with a register of 707 pupils, which is a slight increase on the return for 1888. The schools under the direction of the Church of England are 28, and 1,450 pupils are registered in their books.

(*b.*) Education in the Bahamas does not, unfortunately, appear to keep pace with the increase of population, for, taking the Government, denominational, and private schools together, the number of children on their rolls was 8,074 in 1888, and 8,230 in 1889. The want of good schoolhouses is felt in some of the out islands, and the Government will endeavour to remedy this defect at the earliest practicable opportunity, and to secure also a higher standard of attainments among the teachers.

The total expenditure for education in 1889 was 3,685*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

Imports.

11. The imports proper for 1889 amounted to 172,874*l.*, and there was besides 2,642*l.* worth of goods landed from wrecks, derelicts, and vessels in distress. The legitimate imports, therefore, exceed those for 1888 by 4,600*l.* The following table will show the proportions of *bonâ fide* imports received from the United Kingdom and other countries :—

From.	Amount.	Proportion.
	£	Per cent.
The United Kingdom - - -	35,592	24·0
British Possessions - - - -	6,300	
The United States - - - -	124,417	72·0
Other countries - - - -	6,565	4·0
Total - - -	172,874	100·0

Exports.

12. The exports for 1889 amounted to 130,512*l.*, of which, however, only 102,675*l.* was the produce of the Colony, the remaining 27,837*l.* being British and foreign goods, for the most part landed from wrecks and distressed vessels in 1888 and reshipped early in the year. The exports, therefore, really show a decline from those of 1888 and previous years, which is easily accounted for by the failure of the pine-apple growers to dispose of their produce, causing a loss which would not be over-estimated at 20,000*l.*

The following table gives the distribution of the export trade in Colonial produce for the year :

To.	Amount.	Proportion.
	£	Per cent.
The United Kingdom - - -	11,217	11·5
British Possessions - - - -	658	
The United States - - - -	86,204	84·0
Other countries - - - -	4,596	4·5
Total - -	102,675	100·0

Agriculture.

13. (*a.*) With the exception of fibre cultivation, to which a separate paragraph No. 14 is devoted, the agriculture of the Bahamas is almost confined to fruit growing, for but little attention has been given of late years to the cultivation of cotton, and the small quantity of cereals raised is too insignificant for notice. The fruit business has experienced a period of great depression in 1889. The pine-apple crop was good, but many growers found it impossible to sell their produce, and it is estimated that nearly half was lost. The value of the pine-apples exported was 25,558*l.* as compared with 42,086*l.* in 1888. The number of cases of canned fruit exported in 1889 was 21,683, worth 4,500*l.*, which is almost the same as in the previous year.

(*b.*) There is a slight improvement in the orange trade, the export being valued at 3,041*l.*

(*c.*) The difficulty in disposing of the pine-apple crop is attributed to the growing competition of Cuba in the markets of the United States, but the fruit trade of these islands must in the future be indirectly benefited by the fibre industry, which will lead to the establishment of more frequent steam communication with the outside world, and thus remove the most serious disability under which we labour at present.

Fibre Cultivation.

14. The fibre cultivation has made considerable progress during the year 1889. The returns do not show very accurately the extent of land which has been cleared and planted, but an estimate of 4,000 acres is approximately correct, and there has been a steady, continuous advance in almost all the islands. Work has been much retarded by a want of plants, but this obstacle is fast being removed by their prolific growth, and by the end of the year 1890 the stock will have become equal to the requirements

BAHAMAS.

of a greatly enlarged demand. Meanwhile plants are realising high prices, the despised weed of two years ago being in active demand at from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a thousand. The confident opinion expressed in my last Blue Book Report is by no means weakened by further experience. The unfailing growth of the plant in this Colony, where soil and climate seem so peculiarly adapted to its cultivation, and the high character of the fibre, are receiving added confirmation every day. There is naturally much to be learned in regard to an industry so recently brought into existence, but on its leading conditions our information is sufficiently instructive for all immediate practical purposes. The hardiness of the plant makes the growth almost wholly free from risk, and the continuous yearly yield of ripe leaves for 15 years or more are special features of attraction in this remarkable enterprise. On the point of the relative strength of our fibre there is a report of a recent test in London in which rope manufactured from Bahamas hemp bore a strain of 150 lbs. against Yucatan at 120 lbs. and there is the further difference in our favour of the greater length of the fibre, shown by the fact that while a distance of 6 feet apart is sufficient in Yucatan to prevent contact of the growing plants, 8 feet is required for this purpose in the Bahamas. The produce of half a ton of fibre from an acre is a safe estimate of returns, and the best-informed growers do not place the cost of producing a ton of fibre baled and ready for shipment over 11*l.* to 12*l.* Labour is obtainable at a moderate rate. The work of clearing the land is generally done by contract at from 25*s.* to 35*s.* the acre, and so far no want of labour has appeared. In making the allotments regard is had by the Government to the available supply of labour, and care is taken to avoid undue pressure on any one centre. The principal cultivations in progress are at Abaco, where two companies have taken about 20,000 acres each and are actively at work. This is independent of the local farmers all through the islands, whose aggregate operations are very considerable and are fast increasing. About 3,000 acres have been taken by outside capitalists at Inagua, and 2,000 at Andros Island. Altogether the quantity of land devoted to the fibre, of old and new acquisitions, can be but little short of 100,000 acres, which is gradually being planted, and after the year 1890 the progress will be rapid. A considerable number of further applications are now awaiting attention and compliance with the conditions of purchase. Those from parties who appear to aim at land speculations are not received with favour, the object of the Government being to confine the grants as far as possible to *bonâ fide* cultivators, who mean to identify themselves with the progress of this industry.

The time in which the leaf can be dressed and the fibre prepared for shipment need not exceed 24 hours in a climate like this, where sunshine is rarely absent. The enterprise is free from the necessity of providing for a reserve fund, as the current repairs to the inexpensive machinery will rarely, if ever, involve more than a charge which the annual income will well bear.

Since the 1st of August 1889 the price of Crown land has been raised from 5*s.* to 16*s.* 8*d.* per acre, which is still but a small cost, being at the rate of 10*d.* per acre per annum. By authority of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, allotments of ten acres each are being made to heads of families who are without land or means to purchase, the cost of which—5*s.* per acre—is to be paid from their first fibre crop. These lots meanwhile are under a license of occupation for three years, which will be merged into a grant if the land is diligently cultivated, but, failing in these conditions, the party may be dispossessed.

Sponge Fishery.

15. The yield of the sponge fisheries was good, amounting to a total of 703,164 lbs. of all descriptions, the value of which is given as 51,886*l.* This is the highest figure reached since 1885.

Salt Trade.

16. The trade in salt, which received a slight lift in 1888, has again fallen, and the total export did not exceed the value of 1,279*l.* The salt raked from the ponds of these islands is admitted to be almost the finest in the world, but it is shut out from the markets of the United States by the tariff now in force, and the distance of other countries hinders them from becoming our customers to any great extent.

Shipping Returns.

17. The following tables present an abstract of the shipping returns for 1888–9:—

Sailing Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	198	13,701	1,425
In ballast - - -	26	2,974	154
Total - -	224	16,675	1,579

Sailing Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	60	6,228	374
In ballast - - -	50	3,944	299
Total - -	110	10,172	673

BAHAMAS.

Sailing Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	201	16,354	1,356
In ballast - - -	44	1,587	290
Total - -	245	17,941	1,646

Sailing Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	97	8,345	583
In ballast - - -	18	2,803	126
Total - -	115	11,148	709

Steam Ships Entered (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	4	2,224	90
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	4	2,224	90

Steam Ships Entered (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	45	68,366	2,240
In ballast - - -	6	10,038	354
Total - -	51	78,404	2,594

Steam Ships Cleared (British).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	5	2,836	119
In ballast - - -	—	—	—
Total - -	5	2,836	119

Steam Ships Cleared (Foreign).

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	39	58,111	2,077
In ballast - - -	7	10,095	355
Total - -	46	68,206	2,442

Compared with 1888 these returns show a decrease in sailing and a slight increase in steam tonnage.

Criminal Statistics.

18. There were 2,752 persons brought before the magistrates' courts in 1889, of whom 580 were discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence, 606 were cases dismissed on their merits, 1,544 were summarily convicted, and 22 were committed for trial in the superior courts, where judgment for the Crown was given in 15 cases.

Prison.

19. (*a.*) The total number of persons committed to prison in 1889 was 350, being 172 men, 117 women, and 61 juveniles. Of these, 92, 77, and 19 respectively had been previously convicted. The average daily number of prisoners was 51·38.

(*b.*) The cost of the prison for the year was 1,183*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, which does not include the salaries of the keeper and chaplain provided for out of the general revenue. The value of the prisoners' labour on the public roads and other works during the year was estimated at 602*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, but no money is received for this.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

20. (*a.*) The daily average of patients in hospital for 1889 was 92·0. There were 93 remaining at the end of 1888, and 263 were admitted during the year. 93 patients were discharged as cured,

BAHAMAS.

65 as relieved, and 11 not improved. There were 65 deaths, including one from leprosy. The lepers have a yard and building separated from the rest of the establishment. There were 10 cases treated during the year, and trial has been made of the well-known gurjun oil, but without satisfactory results.

(*b.*) The plans and other preliminary work connected with the proposed new hospital are now completed, and the erection of the building will be commenced immediately. It is hoped that the opening may take place not later than the beginning of 1891.

21. There were 16 lunatics admitted into the asylum in 1889, seven were discharged and five deaths occurred. The average daily number in the asylum was 26, or 16 males and 10 females.

Meteorology.

22. The rainfall for the year was 49·83 inches, which is somewhat below the average. Easterly winds prevailed for 228 days, and this may partly account for the want of rain, as they are dry here. The mean air temperatures at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. ranged from 85°.8 Far. and 86°.8 Far. in July to 73°.1 Far. and 74°.4 Far. in March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SHEA,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Baron Knutsford,
&c. &c.
Colonial Office.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 107.

BARBADOS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 62.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

LONDON:
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1890.

[C.—5897.-37.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turk's and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	,,
106	British Guiana	,,

No. 107.

BARBADOS.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 62.]

Sir W. J. SENDALL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Barbados,
July 3, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889, together with the usual report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1889.

Taxes and Duties.

1. The only alterations under this head worth mentioning are that margarine, oleo-margarine and their compounds, which were not mentioned in the table of dutiable articles, and consequently when imported under their proper designation were liable only to an *ad valorem* duty, have been added to the list and made liable to the same duty as butter, viz., 7*s.* 6*d.* per 100 pounds; and that machinery to be used in the refining or manufacture of sugar is exempted from import duty.

2. *Finance.*

	1889.	1888.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
The balance on the 1st January was	26,013 7 6	13,009 19 8
The revenue for the year was -	174,719 7 5½	162,713 3 4
Total - -	200,732 14 11½	175,723 3 0
The expenditure was - -	146,105 16 5½	149,709 15 6
Leaving a balance of - -	54,626 18 6	26,013 7 6

o 63630. Wt. 19305.

BARBADOS.

3. The above table shows that the finances of the Colony are in a very healthy condition. The revenue had largely increased over that of previous years, and was 28,614*l.* in excess of the expenditure and 24,986*l.* in excess of the estimate. The balance at the close of the year was 54,626*l.*

4. The following tables give the principal heads of revenue and expenditure as compared with the three previous years :—

Revenue.

Year.	Customs.	Rum Duty.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1889 - -	111,438	26,206	37,076	174,720
1888 - -	100,287	24,997	37,429	162,713
1887 - -	92,938	26,131	44,420	163,489
1886 - -	82,856	20,255	33,175	136,286

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£
1889 - -	65,896	80,210	146,106
1888 - -	65,205	84,504	149,709
1887 - -	65,648	88,962*	154,610
1886 - -	67,640	68,988	136,628

5. The revenue and expenditure during the four quarters were as follows:—

Quarters.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
First - - -	50,202	44,116	34,211	32,398
Second - - -	43,982	40,468	39,834	44,248
Third - - -	39,254	40,339	32,741	32,177
Fourth - - -	41,282	37,790	39,320	40,886
Totals - -	174,720	162,713	146,106	149,709

* Arrears, 12,843*l.*

6. The revenue received under the head of "Customs," 111,438*l.*, which forms nearly two thirds of the total revenue, is made up as follows:—99,011*l.* from "Import Duties," 10,703*l.* from "Tonnage Dues," and 1,724*l.* from "Ships' Bonds," "Warehouse Rent," &c. In 1888 the import duties were 88,735*l.*, and the tonnage dues 9,983*l.*

7. Under the head "Other Receipts," 6,361*l.* were received from "Licenses," 6,371*l.* from "Post Office," 4,809*l.* from "Port and Harbour Dues," 4,181*l.*, from "Land Tax," 4,452*l.* from "Reimbursements in Aid," 3,480*l.* from "Fees and Fines of Courts."

8. In comparing the expenditure of 1889 with that of 1888, a decrease of 3,603*l.* is apparent in that of the former, but in 1888 a sum, 5,054*l.*, was paid on account of the sinking fund, whereas no such payment was made in 1889. Taking this into consideration, the expenditure under ordinary heads in 1889 was in reality 1,450*l.* greater than that in 1888.

Local Revenues.

9. The parochial systems are the same as in 1888, and the amounts raised and expended are in almost every case similar.

10. The total revenue from all sources, including a legislative grant of 5,450*l.* for highways, was 56,977*l.*, of which 49,144*l.* was raised by assessment, 41,115*l.* for parochial and 8,029 for highway purposes.

11. The total expenditure amounted to 56,613*l.* distributed as follows:—Poor relief 16,791*l.*, highways, 13,479*l.*, other parochial expenditure, including the upkeep of churches, chapels, and schools, 26,343*l.*

Public Debt.

12. This remains the same as in 1888, viz., 30,100*l.*; the sinking fund for its redemption amounting to 5,000*l.*

Military Expenditure.

13. The expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for military purposes in this Colony was 47,383*l.*, or 15,257*l.* less than in 1888.

Public Works.

14. No fresh works were undertaken in 1889, and the amount spent, 2,724*l.*, was on repairs and alterations to existing buildings.

Legislation.

15. During 1889, 37 Acts were passed, of which the following are the more important :—

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act.
The Receivers of Wreck and Salvage Act.
The Rum Duty Act, 1887, Amendment Act.
The Building Societies Act.
The Merchandise Marks Act.
An Act to amend "The Elective Franchise Extension Act, 1884."
The Inscribed Stock Act.
The Trade Act.
The Assistant Court of Appeal Act, 1853, Amendment Act.
The Criminal Law Amendment Act.
The Registration of Births Act.
The Chancery Act.
The Chancery Re-appraisement Act.

Councils and Assemblies.

16. *Executive Council* was the same as in 1888.

17. *Executive Committee.*—Mr. C. T. Cottle was appointed in the place of Mr. T. Yearwood, and Mr. E. B. Colvin in the place of Mr. E. T. Grannum.

18. *Legislative Council.*—Mr. T. Yearwood was appointed in the place of Mr. J. A. Lynch, deceased.

19. *House of Assembly.*—Mr. G. A. Goodman was elected instead of Mr. W. A. Toppin for St. John's Parish, and Mr. E. B. Colvin instead of Mr. T. Yearwood for St. Thomas'.

Civil Establishment.

20. His Excellency Sir C. C. Lees left for England on the 19th August, and Major-General Sir C. K. Pearson administered the Government from that date until the 24th November, when Sir Walter J. Sendall arrived and was sworn in as Governor of the Island.

21. Mr. L. Payne Gallwey, Superintendent of Public Works' was promoted to Demerara, and left this Island on the 2nd October, and Mr. J. W. Wilson acted from that date to the end of the year.

22. Mr. G. T. White was appointed Governor of Glendairy Prison in September, in the place of Mr. Wm. Price, deceased.

23. The Colonial Postmaster, the Comptroller of Customs, and the Harbour Master were absent on leave during the year.

24. The other changes are unimportant.

Pensions.

25. The amount on the pension sheet at the end of 1889 was 2,905*l.*, being 209*l.* more than it was at the end of 1888. During the year six pensions, amounting to 291*l.*, were added, and five lapsed, amounting to 82*l.* 10*s.*

Population.

26. There are no vital statistics from which a correct idea of the population can be obtained, but, roughly speaking, it may be taken as 180,000.

27. In 1889 the number of baptisms was 7,399, and of burials 6,261, showing an excess of 1,138 in the former over the latter.

Savings Bank.

28. The following figures will show the progress of this institution during the year:—

Year.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount deposited during the Year.	Amount withdrawn during the Year.	Amount in Deposit on 31st December.
	£	£	£	£
1884 - -	6,280	38,960	32,358	56,543
1885 - -	6,878	42,596	39,105	61,638
1886 - -	7,290	43,938	41,995	65,289
1887 - -	7,763	62,151	51,393	77,946
1888 - -	8,364	77,047	60,146	97,210
1889 - -	9,067	106,741	81,311	125,708

29. The reserve fund at the end of the year was 3,604*l.*, which, added to the amount on deposit, make the total funds of the bank 129,312*l.* or 28,498*l.* more than they were at the end of 1888.

BARBADOS.

30. The annual return shows the following disposition of the funds:—

	£
Mortgages on landed security	15,886
New South Wales Stock	14,994
English Funds	17,032
South Australian Stock	7,359
Victoria Stock	5,506
Cape of Good Hope Stock	3,991
Ceylon Stock	5,512
Canadian Stock	11,529
In hands of Crown Agents for investment	8,003
Barbados Government Debentures	26,000
Loans to parishes	2,235
Colonial Bank at deposit receipt	12,400
Colonial Bank current account	706
Balance in hand	159
Total	129,312

Ecclesiastical.

31. There have been no changes of any importance under this head.

Education.

32. The total amount spent on education during the year was 14,296*l.*, made up as follows:—

	£
Officers of Education Board	1,303
Elementary Education	8,910
Second Grade Education	1,201
First Grade and University	2,669
Miscellaneous	213
Total	14,296

Elementary Schools.

33. During 1889 there were 201 elementary schools with a gross average attendance of 12,939, and 23,423 names on the rolls.

34. Of the 201 schools, 65 were primary, 25 combined, and 111 infant. 158 were Anglican, with an average attendance of 10,200; 20 were Moravian, with an average attendance of 1,318; and 22 were Wesleyan, with an average attendance of 1,421. These figures are very nearly the same as those for 1888.

35. *Second Grade Schools.*—At the end of 1889 there were four schools (one less than in 1888) of this class, with a gross average attendance of 173, or an average of 43 each, the largest having 87 and the smallest 23 pupils.

36. *First Grade Schools.*—Of these there are three, two, Harrison College and the Lodge for boys, and the Queen's College for girls; the number of pupils in attendance at each were respectively 163, 42, and 87. Harrison College has a staff of eight masters, the Lodge a staff of three masters, and the Queen's College a staff of five mistresses and a music master.

37. *Codrington College*, the principalship of which has been vacant since the death of the late Bishop Rawle, was conducted by Mr. Hancock, and had 20 students at the close of the year.

Imports and Exports.

38. The following table shows the values of the imports and exports for 1889 as compared with those of the previous five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Increase.	Decrease.	Exports.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1884 - - -	1,156,229	888	—	1,318,878	177,745	—
1885 - - -	890,690	—	265,539	1,003,893	—	314,985
1886 - - -	863,491	—	27,199	739,911	—	263,982
1887 - - -	983,187	119,696	—	1,063,397	323,486	—
1888 - - -	1,058,491	75,304	—	1,074,583	11,186	—
1889 - - -	1,211,370	152,879	—	1,029,588	—	44,995

39. The direction of trade was as follows :—

Country.	Imports from		Exports to	
	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	508,245	428,818	131,385	182,139
United States - - -	447,093	398,002	605,158	554,237
British North America - -	85,020	79,212	102,140	158,705
British West Indies and British Guiana - - - -	91,215	66,465	176,058	143,158
Foreign West Indies - -	22,312	20,487	6,445	22,386
Calcutta - - - -	36,577	35,627	—	—
Peru - - - -	11,250	13,205	—	—
Other countries - - -	9,658	16,675	8,402	13,958
Total - -	1,211,370	1,058,491	1,029,588	1,074,583

BARBADOS.

40. The only appreciable increase in the value of imports in 1889 appears in those from the United Kingdom and the United States, which show respectively an excess in value of 79,427*l.* and 49,091*l.* over those of 1888 from these places. The value of the imports from the United Kingdom is nearly 42 per cent., and from the United States nearly 37 per cent., of the total value of imports, leaving only about 21 per cent. for imports from other places.

41. The following shows a few of the chief articles of import in which an increase has taken place as compared with 1888 :—

Article.	Value.		
	1889.	1888.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Bread, pilot, navy, &c. - - -	19,708	16,108	3,600
Corn and grain - - - -	32,430	21,961	10,469
Oats - - - - -	24,824	16,283	8,541
Corn meal and other kinds - - -	35,379	24,463	10,916
Fish, dried - - - - -	57,694	50,750	6,854
Flour, wheat, or rye - - - -	93,772	83,549	10,223
Hardware - - - - -	45,272	23,515	21,757
Linens and cottons - - - -	172,288	169,698	2,590
Manures, sulphate of ammonia - -	29,186	14,740	14,446
,, sheep - - - -	67,821	26,924	40,897
Meat, salted and cured - - -	54,037	38,486	15,551
Oilmeal and oilcake - - - -	26,357	15,676	10,681
Rice - - - - - -	64,818	57,647	7,171
Staves and shooks - - - -	62,406	42,513	19,893

42. The export trade may be divided as follows :—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, rum) - -	807,647
Other produce - - -	18,518
Re-exports - - - -	203,423
Total - -	£1,029,588

43. Exclusive of the staple produce of the Island, which is nearly all shipped to the United States and Great Britain, the export trade of the Island is chiefly with the other West Indian Islands and British Guiana.

Shipping.

44. The total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1889 was 2,771, with a tonnage of 1,217,728 tons. Of these 2,117, with a tonnage of 344,433 tons, were sailing, and 654 with a tonnage of 873,295 tons, were steam vessels.

45. The tables below show the countries from and to which vessels entered and cleared during 1889 as compared with 1888—comparing also the sailing and steam vessels:—

Entered.

Countries from whence.	Number.				Tonnage.			
	Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.	
	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.
Great Britain - -	32	46	134	120	14,330	14,566	186,304	174,435
United States - -	122	105	52	44	38,542	31,520	52,411	44,873
British North America	127	113	—	—	19,014	17,520	—	—
British West Indies and British Guiana	581	610	143	137	30,435	33,700	197,908	179,301
Foreign West Indies -	54	53	—	1	3,934	4,031	—	501
Brazil - - - -	34	49	1	2	15,169	21,396	1,920	2,658
Buenos Ayres - -	47	26	—	—	26,606	19,422	—	—
Other countries - -	70	64	—	1	25,170	18,593	—	200
Total - - -	1,067	1,066	330	305	173,200	160,748	438,543	401,968

Cleared.

Countries to which.	Number.				Tonnage.			
	Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.	
	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.
Great Britain - -	18	26	44	40	5,628	19,015	72,065	59,689
United States - -	164	126	25	26	71,428	54,821	26,593	25,782
British North America	97	93	—	—	20,085	19,731	—	—
British West Indies and British Guiana	638	697	244	233	53,571	49,841	319,460	307,367
Foreign West Indies -	95	74	5	1	14,069	8,528	5,089	999
Other countries - -	38	57	6	7	6,452	9,401	11,545	8,445
Total - - -	1,050	1,073	324	307	171,233	161,337	434,752	402,282
Total entered and cleared - - -	2,117	2,139	654	612	344,433	322,085	873,295	804,250

BARBADOS.

46. The nationalities of the vessels entered and cleared during 1889 as compared with 1888 are shown below :—

Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.				Total.			
	Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		British.		Foreign.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1889 -	324	426,489	858	97,755	6	12,054	209	75,445	1,182	524,244	215	87,499
1888 -	298	392,830	866	101,147	7	9,138	200	59,601	1,164	493,977	207	68,739

Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.				Total.			
	Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		British.		Foreign.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1889 -	318	422,698	856	100,544	6	12,054	194	70,689	1,174	523,242	200	82,743
1888 -	300	393,144	874	101,787	7	9,138	199	59,550	1,174	494,931	206	68,688

47. From the above it will be seen that of the total number of vessels entered and cleared 85 per cent. were British.

48. The number of vessels entered and cleared with cargoes was 2,383 with a tonnage of 1,001,287 tons, the number in ballast was 388 with a tonnage of 216,441 tons.

Agriculture.

49. *Sugar Industry.*—By far the greater portion of the land under cultivation is devoted to the production of the sugar cane, which forms the staple produce of the Island.

50. The average prices were, for sugar, dry, 15*l.* and muscavado 10*l.* per hogshead for molasses 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per puncheon ; and for rum 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per gallon.

51. There are no returns from which can be obtained the actual amount of sugar and molasses made in the Island during the year.

52. The total amount of rum made was 358,203 gallons as against 329,215 in 1888.

53. The following table compares the produce of 1889 as exported with that of 1888 and 1887:—

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.	
	No. of Hogsheads.	Value.	No. of Puncheons.	Value.	No. of Gallons.	Value.
		£		£		£
1889 -	65,268	667,330	44,818	140,056	3,422	256
1888 -	73,009	751,424	42,832	133,850	74	6
1887 -	68,872	702,925	44,239	138,248	91	7

54. *Minor Industries.*—There was a large increase in the arrowroot trade, 204,720 pounds, value 1,706*l.*, having been exported, as against 19,600 pounds, value 163*l.*, in 1888.

55. Six hundred and seventy-seven barrels of tamarinds, value 846*l.*, were exported.

Criminal Statistics.

56. The total number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during 1889 was 4,791, or 1,054 more than in 1888, and 861 more than the average of the five previous years.

57. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates was 10,492, being 184 more than in 1888; their cases were disposed of as follows:—

	1889.	1888.
Convicted - - - - -	7,570	7,315
Discharged - - - - -	737	593
Acquitted - - - - -	2,067	2,284
Committed - - - - -	118	116
Total - - - -	10,492	10,308

58. The summary convictions were divided as follows:—

	1889.	1888.	Increase.	De-crease.	Average for Five Years previous.
Offences against the person -	2,370	2,379	—	9	2487·8
Prædial larceny - -	1,018	955	53	—	1011·8
Other offences against property	662	652	10	—	673·4
Other offences - -	3,520	3,329	191	—	3619·2
Total - -	7,570	7,315	254	9	7791·2

59. The penalties imposed on summary conviction were:—

	1889.	1888.
Fines - - - - -	4,021	4,717
Imprisonment in lieu of fine - - -	1,665	1,173
Peremptory imprisonment - - -	1,280	951
Whipping - - - - -	277	206
Bound over - - - - -	327	268
Total - - - -	7,570	7,315

60. *Superior Courts.*—The number of cases tried in the superior courts was 130, with the following results:—

	1889.	1888.
Judgment for the Crown - - -	96	91
Judgment for the prisoner - -	15	20
Fell through for want of prosecution -	19	18
Total - - -	130	129

61. The 96 convictions were divided as follows:—

	1889.	1888.	1887.	Average for Five Years 1884–8.
Offences against the person -	35	38	27	40·8
Prædial larceny - - -	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property -	53	47	31	42·
Other offences - - -	8	6	10	9·6
Total - -	96	91	81	92·6

62. Of these convictions two only were of a serious nature, viz., one for murder and one for manslaughter.

Gaols and Prisoners.

63 In 1889, 3,048 persons were committed to prison, 68 for debt, 418 for safe custody, and 2,562 for purposes of penal imprisonment. Of these, 1,412 were men, 1,538 women, and 98 juveniles.

64. In 1888 the number committed to prison was 2,700—93 for debt, 384 for safe custody, and 2,223 for purposes of penal imprisonment, divided as follows:—1,341 men, 1,299 women, and 60 juveniles.

65. Of the 3,048 committals, 887 were previously convicted, as follows:—334 once, 205 twice, and 348 three or more times.

66. The daily average in prison was 329. The number of admissions to hospital during the year was 110; and the daily average on the sick list was, males 4·8, and females 1·73. During the year there were 10 deaths, and one man was hanged.

67. The net cost of prisons during 1889 was 4,560*l.*, and the net profits were 427*l.*, realised from the cooperage and the sale of cocoanut fibre.

68. The estimated value of convict labour inside and outside the prison was 375*l.*; and the saving effected by the bakery carried on at the prison was estimated at 916*l.*

69. The visiting justices passed the following sentences on the male convicts:—18 sentences of corporal punishment (11 with the regulation cat and 7 with the birch rod) and 40 of solitary confinement; and on the female convicts:—12 of solitary confinement, in five of which the prisoners' hair was ordered to be cropped.

70. The sanitary state of the prison was good.

Hospitals and Asylums.

71. *General Hospital.*—At the beginning of 1889 there were in the hospital 228 patients and 2,316 were admitted during the year, making a total of 2,544 or 359 less than the number dealt with in 1888.

72. The daily average in hospital was 213; 2,144 were discharged and 209 died.

73. Of those discharged 1,732 were cured, 367 relieved, and 45 "not improved."

74. *Lazaretto.*—The number of inmates resident in this institution at the end of 1889 was 104 (59 males and 45 females), while in 1888 the number was 84. This increase is due to the fact that additional accommodation has been provided to the extent of 32 beds.

75. The admissions during the year were 38 (26 males and 12 females); the number discharged was 4, and 9 (5 males and 4 females) died at the institution.

76. In 1888 the admissions were 13, the deaths 13, and one was discharged.

77. The average daily number was 95·46, as compared with 82·84 in 1888.

BARBADOS.

78. *Lunatic Asylum.*—During 1889 there were 50 admissions (26 males and 24 females) as compared with 81 in 1888; the daily average was 216 (110 males and 106 females) or 6 more than in 1888; 36 were discharged and 28 died at the asylum.

79. Of the 36 patients discharged, 31 were cured, 2 relieved, and 3 "not improved."

80. The patients in the asylum may be divided as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Manaical and dangerous - - -	37	42
Quiet and chronic - - - -	35	43
Melancholy and suicidal - - -	7	5
Idiotic, paralytic, epileptic - - -	21	16

81. In the year 1888 the sum of 2,500*l.* was spent in the purchase of a site for a new lunatic asylum, but during 1889 nothing further was done in this direction beyond the consideration of the plans and the settlement of certain preliminary details. At the date of writing this report, however, tenders have been accepted for the erection of this institution, and it is hoped that the work will be commenced in a few months' time.

Meteorological.

82. The mean temperature of the air at an elevation of 430 feet above sea level was 76°, the highest reading, 86°, occurring in May and June, and the lowest, 68°, in January, February, and December.

83. The total rainfall amounted to 91·70 inches, distributed over 176 days.

84. The direction of the wind was as follows:—From N.E. 329 days, from S.E. 26 days, and from N.W. 3 days.

Railways and Telephones.

85. The Barbados Railway Company has 24 miles of line. The total receipts for 1889 were 15,975*l.*, including a Government subsidy of 6,000*l.*; and the expenditure was 11,875*l.*

86. The Barbados Telephone Company has about 850 miles of line; the greatest length of one line being 13 miles, and the number of services 335. There is also a Government telephone line connecting all the police stations, and the Barbados railway telephone line, having respectively 35 and 24 miles of line.

Health.

87. The health of the Island was good throughout the year.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados, 30th June 1890.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 70.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT
OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30TH JUNE 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 31.)

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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1889.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887)	1887
21	Bahamas	,,
22	Labuan	,,
23	Malta	,,
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
25	St. Vincent	,,
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,

No. 70.

BASUTOLAND.

Lieutenant-General H. A. SMYTH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Cape Town,
August 8, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, the report of the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland for the year ended 30th June 1889.

The report shows a satisfactory progress during the year, and I have much pleasure in bringing to your Lordship's notice the zeal and ability with which Sir Marshall Clarke and the officers under him have discharged the duties entrusted to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. SMYTH, Lieut.-General,
Administrator and
Acting High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Resident Commissioner's Office, Basutoland,
July 29, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on British Basutoland for the year ended 30th June 1889, covering copies of reports from

Assistant Commissioner, Berea.
Do. Leribe.
Do. Mafeteng.
Do. Maseru.
Do. Quthing.
Medical Officer, Maseru.
Dr. Brock on Free Dispensary, Mafeteng.

2. During the year under review a proclamation having legislative effect was issued by the High Commissioner making provision for the further prevention when necessary of exportation of certain warlike articles from Basutoland; and an Order in Council was published extending Part II. of the Fugitive Offenders Act to Basutoland.

3. While unfriendly relations still exist amongst many of the Chiefs there has been no intertribal fighting.

o 59941. Wt. 13155.

BASUTOLAND.

4. At the annual Pitso held in October last I had to speak strongly on the manner in which some of the Chiefs abused the authority entrusted to them by "eating up" their subjects for comparatively trifling offences, and punishing people charged with witchcraft.

The first evil I have as yet been unable sucessfully to grapple with, though the subject is engaging the closest attention from me and my officers.

On the second point I was supported by the Chief Letsie, and though several cases have since come to my knowledge of fines being inflicted, and in some cases of people being eaten up on charges of witchcraft, I think the evil is checked and the number of travelling doctors, Zulu and Matebele, sensibly reduced. The establishment of free dispensaries, as suggested by the Secretary of State, has proved of distinct assistance. The difficulty in dealing with witchcra't arises from the all but universal belief in which it is held by the Basuto. The Chiefs inform me that occasionally they find it hard to resist the pressure brought to bear on them by their subjects where some unknown disease, or exceptional misfortune, indicates to them a supernatural agency.

5. Some of the Chiefs, notably Lerothodi, the eldest son of Letsie, contrive to get drunk on spirits when chance offers; but this causes them a loss of influence and prestige, and their messengers when convicted of smuggling receive at all events as severe punishment as other offenders.

6. Our relations with the Burghers of the Orange Free State continue satisfactory.

7. A question as to the sources of the Caledon River, referred to in the Treaty of Aliwal North, which for the past year was in abeyance, has been again raised, and is now the subject of a correspondence between the President of the Orange Free State and myself. I trust the matter will be found capable of satisfactory adjustment.

8. It having been found that the cost of erection of a fence along the border between the Caledon River and Cornet Spruit alluded to in my last report would prove greater than anticipated, the Free State Volksraad decided to reject the only tender for the proposed work. The plan has consequently, I regret to say, fallen through. Some of the farmers living on the border propose to fence their portions of the line provided the Basuto will share the expense. The question is under consideration.

9. Trade shows a decided improvement. The imports for the year ended 31st December 1888 amounted approximately to 120,000*l.* Many new stores have since been opened.

In addition to this a large business is done with the Basuto l y stores in the Orange Free State near the border, and a barter trade, Colonial and Free State produce being exchanged for Basutoland stock and grain, the value of which is difficult to estimate.

In connexion with this subject it is worthy of notice that in Basutoland and border towns Belgian cotton, blankets, and

woollen goods other than blankets are successfully competing with similar goods of British manufacture.

10. During the past year more than 40,000 passes have been issued, a large proportion to Basutos seeking work at Kimberley, Jagersfontein, the Transvaal goldfields, and the railway works now in progress. About six months ago a serious epidemic appears to have broken out at some of the mines at Kimberley and Dutoitspan. The death-rate of the Basuto working there was excessive. Stories were spread as to the neglect and ill-usage of the sick, but on investigation the evidence did not appear to me sufficiently strong to warrant my making any representation.

11. Out of the annual expenditure for public works a large amount of road work has been done, and the cost defrayed of a residency for the Assistant Commissioner, Quthing, quarters for police officers at Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohalies Hoek, a gaol at Maseru, together with various repairs and alterations to public buildings.

12. The police continue to be an efficient and economical force. Stables for their horses have been built or are in course of erection at all the stations.

13. There is little crime in the country. The Chiefs have rendered much assistance both in the police measures taken for the security of property on the border and elsewhere, and in the collection of hut tax.

14. The missionaries of the various denominations appear to expend the Government grants in aid of education entrusted to them for distribution in a satisfactory manner. All schools receiving Government aid are from time to time inspected by my officers, whose reports are generally favourable.

The Paris Evangelical Missionary Society offer the Basuto an exceptionally high education at their training school at Morija. Amongst the pupils are lads from the Cape Colony, the Transvaal, the north of Bechuanaland, and the Protectorate. At the third-class teachers' examinations held in the Cape Colony a special class is reserved for English-Kaffir English-Sesuto. Of late the Morija candidates have obtained good places. The industrial school in connexion with this mission has tendered for and secured the contract for building the residency at Quthing. Most of the Government printing is done by its press at Morija.

I have been able, owing to the increased grants authorised by your Excellency, to assist the Roman Catholic Mission in opening an industrial training school at Roma. I trust that the efforts made in this direction by the Bishop, Dr. Ganghran, may afford a needed assistance to the Basuto to learn trades. There are only two undenominational schools in Basutoland; one for European children at Maseru, the other, a boarding and day school, for Basuto children at the village of Seiso Letsie. Both receive Government aid and are favourably reported on.

15. The free dispensary at Maseru open daily, and at Mafeteng once a week, appear successful, and, judging from the attendance,

BASUTOLAND.

are appreciated by the Basuto. A medical mission has been established at Mohalies Hoek under direction of the Bishop of Bloemfontein, who has consented to the doctor attached receiving a small grant for taking charge of a free dispensary and attending Government officers and employés.

16. In April last Letsie, hearing that Sir Hercules Robinson was about to leave for England, sent one of his brothers and one of his sons to wish him good-bye, and to thank him in the name of the nation for the practical interest which he, as Her Majesty's representative, had shown in all that concerned the Basuto

17. I have much pleasure in being able to report most favourably on the officers under me. The general maintenance of peace and order, as well as the marked improvement in local revenue, is due to the way in which they performed their several duties, and is a testimony to the confidence and support they have gained from the Chiefs and people.

18. Numerous applications have been received from individuals and societies for leave to prospect for minerals and precious stones in Basutoland; but so far the Chiefs and people are opposed to granting any such permission, as they regard it as a first step towards the loss of their country. Permission has consequently been refused.

19. I append a summary of general statistics for the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
&c. &c. &c.
South Africa.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax - - -	17,077	18	7
Licenses - - -	911	2	3
Post Office - - -	630	6	0
Fines, fees, &c - - -	213	6	7
Miscellaneous - - -	377	7	5
	19,210	0	10

Licenses.

General traders - - - -	79
Hawkers - - - - -	157

Schools.

Number of schools - - -	100
Number of scholars on books -	5,042
Amount of Government grants-in-aid	£4,634

Free Dispensaries.

Number of patients - - -	5,979

Enclosure No. 1

Maseru, Basutoland,
July 16, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that from July 1st, 1888, to June 30th, 1889, the number of Basuto attending the free dispensary at Maseru numbered 3,402, as compared with 1,952 for the corresponding period 1887–88, showing an increase of 1,450, a result which is, I venture to think, very satisfactory.

The number of cases of mokaula has this year been only 682, as compared with over 900 during the year 1887–88, which, taking into consideration the large increase in numbers attending the dispensary, would tend to show that the disease is decreasing, a very desirable result.

I have not been called upon during the past year to investigate an outbreak of any of the infectious diseases, although I believe that measles have been prevalent, and where the patients were without the reach of medical attendance have proved very fatal.

The health of the prisoners in the Maseru Gaol has continued to be very satisfactory. I made the experiment of weighing them some months in succession, and found their weight varied but little, a good test of their healthiness and the sufficiency of their rations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. V. ROWE,
Medical Officer.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Marshall Clarke, R.A., K.C.M.G.,
Resident Commissioner, Basutoland.

BASUTOLAND.

Enclosure No. 2.

MAFETENG DISPENSARY.

Medical Report for year 1888–89.

This dispensary was established in July 1888, and is open one day a week, when natives attending receive advice and medicine free.

During the year just ended the attendance has been :—

A.—Cases receiving treatment for first time	1,691
B.—Cases that received treatment more than once - - - - -	886
	2,577

In Class A, 1,075, or 64 per cent., were cases of "mokoala" and 616 cases of general diseases.

In Class B, 820, or 92 per cent., were cases of mokoala and 66 cases of general disease. The 616 cases in Class A and 66 in Class B were chiefly disorders of digestion and various minor ailments, a few cases of measles, bronchitis and whooping cough, two cases of leprosy, and two of diphtheria, and call for no special remark.

If these figures be taken as a guide there are twice as many cases of mokoala as the numbers of all other diseases combined in the district.

So far as I have been able to judge, the term mokoala as used by the natives embraces papular, pustular, and tubercular eruptions in all their varieties or stages, mucous patches, condylomata, gummatous ulcerations, &c. The term, therefore, includes a great variety of simple skin diseases, but the large majority of cases of mokoala that have come under my notice I regard as syphilides, and have always found them to yield rapidly to anti-syphilitic treatment.

The great need there was for medical aid in the district, and the manner in which the natives have appreciated the action of the Government in supplying it, are abundantly evidenced by the numbers who have availed themselves of the benefits of the dispensary during the year,

The actual amount of good done in the direction of checking the spread of mokoala in the district I have no means of estimating. I have, however, been informed that in many villages the visible signs of the disease have materially decreased. An increase in the proportion of mokoala cases in Class B as compared with those in Class A during the latter part of the year seems in some measure to support this view.

(Signed) B. G. BROCK, L.B., C.P., S.C.D.,
Visiting Physician.

July 1889.

Enclosure No. 3.

THABA BOSIGO (MASERU) DISTRICT.

Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 1889.

I have to report that during the past year the state of the district has been comparatively quiet and orderly. At times disturbances threatened between some of the sons of Letsie, but counsel prevailed and the peace was not broken.

The Chiefs have continued to afford assistance in tracing and recovering stock stolen from outside Basutoland, and in bringing criminals to justice. Power is relegated to them of dealing with cases between natives, which are, I believe, fairly judged as a rule, though the process in their courts may be expensive for the litigants.

Our indicated course is to work through the Chiefs. This course is occasionally slow and vexatious. They are very suspicious of and resent any encroachment upon the prerogatives of Chieftainship.

With the neighbouring Free State officials we have found no difficulty in working smoothly. Mutual co-operation is displayed in dealing with border crime and checking irregularities which have been confined chiefly to infringements of the Pass and Liquor Laws.

There are no recognised canteens on or adjacent to the border, and I believe the evil of brandy drinking is much lessened.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

The crops of cereals have yielded a good return, and the prices paid for grain are higher. Cattle for foreign markets have been in great request. Though reluctant to part with them the people are moved to sell owing to the confined and diminishing area of pasturage.

Commercial.

Trade has improved. Heavy stocks of grain no longer seem to encumber the trading stations. The Pont over the Caledon River at Maseru has afforded much help and stimulation to traffic.

Roads and Public Works.

All the public roads are in fair order, and are repaired without delay as required.

A good gaol at Maseru is in course of erection to replace a primitive one now in use.

Education.

The schools appear to be making good progress under supervision of the various mission societies. There are 34 schools in the district having a nominal roll of 1,957 scholars.

BASUTOLAND.

A public reading, writing rooms and library for natives opened at Maseru in July 1888 has been attended by 1,500 persons. Though it is not possible at present to trace any results, the diffusion of knowledge and mutual intercourse must have been beneficial.

Crime.

The calendar of crime consists of ten cases of theft and nine minor offences. One case of manslaughter occurred in the district and was dealt with in the Resident Commissioner's Court. All stock reported as stolen from the Orange Free State and traced into the district has been recovered.

Labour.

Owing to the demand for labour at the goldfields where the character of the Basuto for work continues to rank high it has been scarcer in Basutoland. The current rate here is 1*s.* a day. Several agencies for recruiting labour are engaged. There has been continual demand for native mechanics who are equal to perform even rough work. By means of Government aid boys are now learning trades with a view to supply the want.

Media.

There has apparently been less sickness than usual and no epidemic.

Police.

The men and their horses are both efficient. Many candidates apply for any vacancy. Stables have been completed and are of much advantage.

Revenue.

I append statistics of revenue, which is improving. About 700*l.* of the hut tax represents arrears.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - -	3,489	19	3
Licenses - - -	143	2	6
Fines, fees, &c. - - -	38	19	4
Miscellaneous receipts - -	279	10	4
Post Office - - -	630	6	0
	4,581	17	5

G. Y. LAGDEN,
Assistant Commissioner.

Maseru, July 1889.

Enclosure No. 4.

MAFETENG.

Report for the year ended 30th June 1889.

1. Few events of any importance have occurred during the year.

2. In November last the Chief Lerothodi sent his son Griffith to Kimberley with about 400 men to work for the Griqualand West Diamond Mining Company. He has complained to me that the men were not well treated, and that at least 28 of them died during the three months they were there; but upon inquiry sufficient evidence could not be obtained to show that any of the deaths resulted from ill-treatment.

3. Seittileko, a petty Chief living at this station, who fought on the side of the Cape Government in the late war, has been heavily fined by the paramount Chief and his son Lerothodi for causing a disturbance, in which shots were fired, but no one hurt, in the Maluti mountains in the Quthing District, by forcibly taking some cattle, which he claimed, from a younger brother. The whole of the cattle belonging to himself and his people were seized by Lerothodi, but upon the Resident Commissioner expressing disapproval of Lerothodi's action the cattle were restored with the exception of about 70.

4. My relations with the Colonial and Free State officials are friendly.

5. Illicit traffic in liquor, I regret to say, is still carried on along my border by Europeans living in the Free State, and it has been found impossible to prevent the Chief Lerothodi from obtaining liquor from these by stealth. He does not oppose the enforcement of the regulations prohibiting the introduction of spirits, but seems unable to cure himself of intemperate habits.

A number of natives have been arrested by the police, who frequently patrol the border, for the contravention of this regulation, and upon conviction the offenders have been fined or, when unable to pay the fines, imprisoned with hard labour.

6. Serious crimes are very rare. A few cases of trespasses by Basuto on bordering farms, and of servants bringing into Basutoland property belonging to their masters as security for wages alleged to be due to them, have been reported, but in every instance where evidence has been strong enough to convict the offenders have been punished.

Very few thefts from outside of Basutoland have occurred, and all stolen property traced into Basutoland has, with the aid of the Chiefs, been recovered.

7. Small parties of men have been constantly employed repairing the roads, but, being in a hilly country where heavy rains fall periodically, they require a lot of work to keep them in order.

8. A large drain is being constructed in the district at comparatively very small cost It will save a lot of water from running

BASUTOLAND.

to waste, and preserve a large bed of reeds. The reeds, which are very valuable to the Basuto for building purposes, were dying for the want of water.

9. Stables for police horses have been built at this station.

10. The dry weather in the early part of the season caused the grain crops to be below the average, but sufficient has, I believe, been reaped to provide the people with food till next harvest.

11. In consequence of the opening of the goldfields in the Transvaal money has been plentiful and trade has improved. There are 13 fixed trading stations in the district.

12. A large number of natives have obtained passes to go and work in the Cape Colony and Free State.

13. The free dispensary opened here last year, and visited once a week by Dr. Brock from Wepener in the Free State, has been well attended. The most prevalent disease is that called mokaula by the Basuto, about which there is a difference of opinion amongst medical men as to whether it is syphilis or not.

14. The mission schools and the undenominational school in the district are still doing good work, and are well attended.

15. With the assistance of the Chiefs, especially of Lerothodi, who has worked exceptionally well in the matter, I have succeeded in getting in a large amount of arrears of hut tax.

The revenue collected during the year is nearly double that of any previous year since the change of Government.

The sums received under the different heads are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - - -	3,390	9	4
Licenses - - - -	162	0	0
Judicial fines - - -	45	0	0
Fees - - - -	4	19	6
Miscellaneous receipts - -		5	7
	3,609	14	5

(Signed) W. H. SURMON,
Assistant Commissioner.

Enclosure No. 5.

CORNET SPRUIT DISTRICT.

Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1889.

Historical.

The internal working of the district during the past 12 month has, on the whole, been satisfactory.

During the months of August and September disputes of a rather serious nature occurred between the Bamohali and Bapo-

sholi clans, about certain boundary lines and gardens; an open rupture was only prevented by my persuading the respective Chiefs of the two clans to refer the matter to the paramount Chief Letsie, to which they agreed, and in the following month of November these disputes were settled by Chief Lerothodi, who was sent down by his father for the purpose.

In October a dispute also arose between Lebona and Mahko Tekoke, as to the ownership of certain gardens. This was settled in the following May by Ramagotetse, who was sent for the purpose by Molomo, Chief of the Bamohali.

In March last the Chief Khetsane died very suddenly.

In April Mocletse, son of Mocketse, who left Basutoland with his father some time before the death of Moletsane, returned to the district and has taken up his residence near Khalase, and is now owner of the coal mine.

In May I made a patrol of three weeks' duration into the Maluti mountains, and was accompanied by the native officer of the district (Mohapi), who rendered great assistance in the collection of taxes from defaulters.

I found all quiet, stock looking well, and crops abundant.

Political.

Relations on the border of the district continue friendly.

Very few complaints have been made by either farmers or natives living along the border. The beacons appear to be respected.

The sale of brandy along the Free State border is perceptibly decreasing. The severe punishments inflicted on all convicted persons has had a beneficial effect in modifying this evil.

Population.

Appears to be on the increase, notably in the Maluti mountains.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

The past has been a favourable year for grain crops. Large quantities have been bought by the local traders and exported to the neighbouring states and Diamond Fields at improved prices.

Stock of all description is in good condition, and is likely to remain so for the rest of the winter as pasturage is abundant.

Education.

There are at present nine aided schools, eight are in connexion with the French Mission Society, and one with the Church of England; they have recently been examined, and appear to be making fair progress.

Commercial.

There are 11 general trading stations in the district.

Only two hawkers' licenses have been issued during the year.

Business has greatly improved and money has been more plentiful than usual, and, owing to the rise in the value of cattle, business men have done fairly well.

Medical.

The general health of the district is good, makaula amongst the natives being the only really troublesome disease.

A free Government dispensary has been established here, which is already well attended. The doctor, who is connected with a medical mission of the Church of England, receives an allowance from Government and has charge of the dispensary and all Government servants.

Crime and Police,

As hitherto most cases criminal and civil between natives are settled by the Chiefs.

Stock thefts from neighbouring states have been few all stolen stock that has been traced into the district has been recovered.

Two cases of murder have been tried by the Resident Commissioner; one man was convicted, the other found guilty of culpable homicide.

Labour

Has been plentiful during the year. 3,857 persons, have obtained passes; a great number of these went to the Diamond Fields and elsewhere for employment.

Roads.

The roads in the district are much out of repair. Two parties are at present employed, and are doing good work.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax - - - -	2,299	1	11
Licenses - - - -	126	0	0
Fines and fees - - -	3	2	6
Sale of unclaimed stock - -	2	8	0
Miscellaneous receipts - -	10	18	0
Total - -	2,441	10	5

(Signed) J. W. BOWKER,
Inspector B. M. Police.

Enclosure No. 6.

LERIBE DISTRICT.

Annual Report for the year ending 30*th June* 1889.

General.

The district has been generally peaceful during the past year. The ill-feeling between the Chiefs Jonathan and Joel still exists, and manifests itself occasionally, but has not led to any disturbance worth mentioning. There have been a few seizures of stock on various pretexts on both sides, but these have generally been returned, on remonstrance from the Government officers.

A proposal was made, in the course of the year, to restore the Chief Letsika Matela to his location beyond the Hololo river, whence he was driven some years ago by his father Matela, who now wishes him to return. This proposal, although supported by the paramount Chief, is strongly opposed by the Chief Joel Molapo, on account of Letsika being a partisan of Jonathan.

The Chief Ramanella died in August 1888, but the friendly relations which had been established with his tribe before his death have not been interrupted; and his sons Peete and Seshophe have used their influence with their followers to enforce the payment of hut tax, the amount of which considerably exceeds that of any previous year's collection in this ward.

Population.

The population is rapidly increasing both by natural increase and immigration, and must now be considerably over 50,000.

Hut Tax.

The amount of hut tax collected during the year compares favourably with previous years, amounting as it does to

BASUTOLAND. 4,093*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* against 3,065*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* collected in 1887–8, and 1,418*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* in 1886–7. A considerable proportion of the collections this year consists of arrears tax.

Crime.

The criminal cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court at Thlotse Heights for the year are as follows :—

Theft - - - - -	9
Assault - - - - -	3
„ resisting police - - -	2
Breach of trust - - - -	1
Housebreaking - - - -	1
Breach of prison discipline - - -	2
Contravention of Pass Law - - -	12
Rescue of stock - - - -	1
Contravention of Liquor Law - -	2

Education.

I am unable to report any great progress in education this year, but the attendance at the schools has not seriously diminished. The principal Chief in the district is not disposed to encourage mission work and the schools suffer in consequence.

Commercial.

Trade generally appears to have improved, and the number of licenses issued considerably exceed those of the previous year.

	1887–88.	1888–89.
General traders' licenses - -	8	12
Hawkers' licenses - - -	31	41

Grain has slightly risen in price during the last few months, owing to drought in the Orange Free State.

Public Works.

The roads require constant attention, and with the utmost care can hardly be kept passable during the summer rains. The boats which were purchased at the commencement of the year for the Caledon and Hotse rivers have been very useful.

The officers' quarters at Butha Buthe have been enlarged, and a hut has been built for a sub-inspector at Thlotse Heights; also quarters for a constable. Stabling has also been provided for the police horses at these stations.

Medical.

There was an epidemic of measles in the early part of the year, and several children died in the camps at Thlotse Heights and Buthabuthe. A considerable sum was spent in cleansing the former camp, but the work is not nearly completed. Low fever and dysentery occasionally break out, and venereal diseases are prevalent in the camp and district. No cases of small-pox have been reported.

Police.

The police force stationed in Leribe is in a very efficient state. The discipline of the men is good, and they are well mounted. As I remarked last year, the detachment is too small at Thlotse Heights.

A dispute has arisen with the Orange Free State on the question of the boundary between that State and Basutoland, on the Upper Caledon. A Commission was sent up in September 1888 to inspect the country, and report. The question is still unsettled.

Apart from this matter, the Free State officials of the districts bordering on Leribe have generally manifested a wish to assist us in the amicable settlement of border cases.

(Signed) S. BARRETT,
Assistant Commissioner.

Leribe, 30th June 1889.

SIR, Buthabuthe, July 1st, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you a report on that part of your district under my immediate charge, for the past year.

General.

The general state of Joel's ward during that period has been quiet, though there have been several rumours of disturbances, which for the most part have been without foundation. In August there was some trouble between the herd men of Tsolo Moheli and Belo. But, though a few shots were fired, the fighting was quickly stopped, and no one was hurt.

In December a Bushman was killed in a village fight. Two or three other reports of fights turned out, on investigation, to be groundless. One case of "eating up" occurred in Matela's

BASUTOLAND.

ward, the man who was "eaten up" having been accused of witchcraft. One or two other charges of a like nature were brought against men.

In December Letsika, the eldest son of Matela, paid a long visit to his father, with a view of being again acknowledged as his father's heir. This was very displeasing to Joel, who put every obstacle he could in the way of Letsika's return. In January Lerothodi came up, and called a Pitso at Matela's village to discuss the question of Letsika's return. During the past year the Orange Free State Government has raised a question as to the boundary between the Free State and Basutoland at the head waters of the Caledon, and several officers have visited the Machachaneng districts in connexion with this matter.

There has been little crime in this ward during the past year.

The revenue for the year has nearly doubled that of last year, the amount collected since July 1888 being 1,163*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, while for the previous year it was 626*l.* 16*s.*

The road through the ward is now in very fair order as far as the Hololo river. I hope shortly to bring under your consideration a new road to Tlasuas village, which will, if made, open up a district in which a great deal of grain is produced.

Schools.

There are two schools in the ward which receive a grant from Government; one, under the French Protestants at Qalo, the other, under the English church at Sekubu. I send you a report on the latter.* I was unable to inspect the former lately, in consequence of its being suddenly closed before the usual time.

Trade.

There are at present five general traders in the ward, and business has improved considerably during the past year.

My relations with the Free State Authorities along the border continue to be friendly, and they afford me all the assistance in their power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BOXWELL,
Sub-Inspector, B.M.P.

The Assistant Commissioner,
Leribe.

* Not printed.

Enclosure No. 7.

BEREA DISTRICT.

Report for the year ending 30th June 1889.

I HAVE to report that during the past year the peace of the district has been undisturbed, though the disputes between the various Chiefs and Petty Chiefs still exist. In connexion with these quarrels no serious act of violence has been committed, and in the few cases in which cattle and ploughs have been seized, the property has been restored to the owners upon the intervention of Government.

In the spring the people of Masupha living on the border of Peete's ward, disregarding judgments of the Resident Commissioner and the Paramount Chief, had ploughed within Peete's boundary. In January the Chiefs interested in the case were called by the Resident Commissioner to a meeting at Liboping, near the fields in question. Masupha did not attend the meeting, and it was decided by the Resident Commissioner and the representatives of the Paramount Chief that the crops should be destroyed. The fields on the boundary were ridden through by the police and the followers of Lerothodi, who was acting for his father, and the whole of the crops raised in opposition to judgments were declared to be confiscated. Peete has since complained that the people of Masupha have been reaping the crops; and Masupha, though he expresses his compliance with the judgment, has not apparently taken the necessary action to restrain his followers.

The deaths of the Chiefs Tsekelo Moshesh and Ramanella occurred in August. Tsekelo Moshesh had been for many years in Government service, and was a man of unusual intelligence. His death at a comparatively early age is much to be regretted. The deaths of Ramanella places his eldest son Peete at the head of the clan of Makhabane.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

Less wheat has been grown in the district and more Kaffir corn. The crops of the past year are fair. The country is overstocked with cattle.

Commercial.

The trade returns show a considerable improvement. The natives have brought much money into the country, being their earnings at the Gold Fields. I have issued the following trading licenses :—

General traders - - - -	11
Hawkers' licenses - - -	34
Grain passe - - - -	13

Roads.

The main roads are in passable order, but require constant attention and repair.

Education

The two schools of the French Protestant Society and their out-stations, and the two schools of the Roman Catholic Mission with their out-stations, continue to do good work. The schools at Berea and Mapoteng are particularly well attended and conducted. The work of the pupils of the Industrial school employed on Government buildings at this place was completed in September. The work, though good, hardly appears to be of the character likely to be most practically useful to the natives themselves, or to meet the requirements of the country. It is a matter for consideration whether instruction in a simpler and more expeditious kind of work would not be desirable.

Crime.

There has been very little serious crime. In all cases of theft from the Free State reported at this office the property has been restored and the offenders punished. I continue to receive assistance from the Chiefs in the detection and apprehension of criminals. Native criminal cases are as a rule decided by the Chiefs themselves. The Landdrost of Ladybrand has willingly co-operated with me in the adjustment of border questions.

The following is a statement of the criminal convictions in this court during the year:—

Theft - - - - -	8
Assault - - - - -	2
Resisting police - - - -	1
Attempted escape from gaol - - -	1
Contra Basutoland Trading Regulations, 7th section - - - - -	3
	15

Labour.

I have had no difficulty in procuring the necessary labourers for roads and public works at the usual rate of 1*s.* per diem without food. Large numbers of Basuto have gone to work at the Gold Fields, and have brought back their earnings, with much benefit to the revenue and to trade.

Medical.

The natives in increasing numbers are availing themselves of the Free Dispensary in Maseru.

Revenue.

The following revenue has been collected and remitted by me. Owing to the comparative abundance of money in the country, I have been able to collect a large proportion of the arrears of Hut Tax.

For the current year I estimate that tax has been paid on 3,500 huts.

Revenue remitted to Resident Commissioner:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - -	2,667	4	0
Licenses - - - -	140	12	6
Fines - - - -	23	7	3
Fees - - - -	0	12	6
Miscellaneous - - -	3	12	0
	£2835	8	3

(Signed) H C. SLOLEY,
A. A. C.

Enclosure No. 8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1888-9.

Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Quthing,
July 4, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1888-9.

Political.

Chiefs Matlakoana and Muse of the Batlakoana tribe, finding their wards in Upper Quthing insufficient for the requirements of their people, have decided to leave this Territory and to obtain locations in Pondoland.

Last March a disturbance occurred at Tsualike between the Headmen Seittileko and Mantsi concerning certain cattle claimed by the former. Firearms were used, but nobody was injured, and the case was subsequently investigated and adjusted.

No other disturbance or matter of political importance has occurred during the past year, and the general state of the district is satisfactory.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

The last harvest was good in the lower part of Quthing, but people residing above Kudu river did not reap much grain, though they have sufficient for food, and there is no prospect of scarcity.

The district is becoming overstocked, and at present I notice a lack of pasture, but no serious loss in stock has occurred this winter. The frosts have been severe, but very little snow has fallen.

Education.

Two French Protestant missionaries are resident in Quthing. One Industrial school and six Mission schools receive Government grants in aid. These schools are attended by 339 scholars who are making good progress with their studies.

Commercial.

There are six general traders' shops, and trade has been brisk during the grain and wool seasons. Wheat is worth 6*s.* per muid, mealies 4*s.*, and Kafir corn 6*s.* The average rate paid for wool was 3½*d.* per pound, and 497 bales were purchased by the local traders. Horses, cattle, and small stock are realizing fair prices.

Medical.

During the summer months measles were prevalent and several deaths occurred. The general health of the people is now good.

Crime and Police.

The following civil and criminal cases have been tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court.

Civil Cases	4
Homicides	2
Assaults	3
Thefts	10
Escaping from gaol	1
Contra Trading Regulations	4
„ Pass „	14
Charges dismissed	2

The Police Detachment under my command are an efficient body of men, and continue to perform excellent service.

The strength is as follows:—

2 Officers.
2 European constables.
29 Rank and file.

Labour.

Labourers are plentiful, and men employed on road parties receive 1*s.* per day.

During the past year 3,653 natives received passes from this office; of these 1,052 were issued to persons for the purpose of seeking employment beyond the borders of Basutoland.

Public Works.

The roads and bridle-paths have lately received attention and are now in thorough repair. The proposed new road across the Drakensberg has been advanced as far as Madibe's village, and work will be shortly resumed.

The portion of the Orange river flowing between Quthing and Cornet Spruit districts is generally impassable for vehicles during the summer, and this has proved most inconvenient for travellers and has prevented many grain buyers from visiting Quthing. To facilitate the means of communication a Government pont has been placed on the Orange river at Siake Drift, and it is rendering good service.

A new dwelling-house for the accommodation of the officer in charge of Quthing is being erected by the apprentices belonging to the local Industrial school, under the superintendence of the Director of that Institution.

A police stable for 30 horses is now in course of erection, and will prove most serviceable, as the troop horses suffer greatly from exposure in winter and during rainy weather. I have also received authority to build a store house, which is urgently required for the safekeeping of Government property.

Revenue.

The total revenue collected from 1st July 1888 to 30 June 1889 amounted to 1,322*l.* 19*s.*, of which 1,137*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* was Hut Tax.

Tax paid on 2,263 huts.

I have, &c.

The Resident Commissioner, Basutoland

(Signed) T. P. KENNAN, A. A. C., Quthing.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-General H. A. Smyth to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Cape Town,
My Lord, August 15, 1889.

I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a Despatch which I have received from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, reporting on the education system of Basutoland.

I shall communicate with the Cape Government with a view to obtaining the report of a deputy inspector of schools on the educational work of the Basutoland schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. Smyth, Lieut.-General,
Acting High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Sir M. Clarke to the High Commissioner.

Resident Commissioner's Office, Basutoland,
Sir, August 7, 1889.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 1st August, covering copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, and in compliance therewith to forward a special report on the educational work at present carried on in Basutoland.

The total amount granted by Government during the past year in aid of education was 4,581*l.*, distributed as follows:—

	£
Paris Evangelical Missions - -	2,900
Roman Catholic - - -	1,470
English Church of South Africa - -	145
Undenominational schools - - -	66

The number of schools receiving Government aid is 100, with a nominal roll of 4,053 and mean average attendance of 3,480.

Putting aside industrial schools, the different denominations receive aid in proportion to the number of children taught.

The education offered is, for the most part, of an elementary character, suitable to a people of agricultural pursuits, whose children are withdrawn early for labour in the field. It consists of reading and writing in Sesuto, and a little elementary arithmetic and English.

The greater number of the schools are dispersed about the country, the missionaries selecting, as a rule, villages where they have a catechist or native religious teacher, and a church. The church building is generally used for the school, but the master and catechist are independent of each other.

A higher education than that above indicated is offered at the missionary centres.

The number of schools under direct European supervision is 21, with about 1,400 pupils on the attendance roll.

At Morija, the headquarters of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society, the training school affords a sound English education, the staff being composed of well qualified Europeans.

There is an interesting girls' school at Roma, the chief Roman Catholic Mission station, where the pupils are instructed in carding, spinning, weaving, and the elements of dressmaking as well as in English and Sesuto.

The industrial teaching in Basutoland leaves much to be desired.

The Paris E. M. Society has a school where building and rough carpentery is taught, which receives a grant of 300*l.* a year. There are now under tuition 17 boys, but the staff is insufficient, there being but one instructor, who is at the same time director. There is a printing press and bookbinding establishment at Morija, where native apprentices are received and perform all the work under the superintendence of the Reverend H. Mabille. Government printing is done at this institution. The society has also lately opened a school intended to teach girls sewing, washing, and cooking. It receives a grant of 100*l.* a year.

A special grant of 1,100*l.* was authorised and appropriated during the last year to assist the Roman Catholic Mission in founding an industrial school. The staff of teachers at present includes a carpenter, a turner, and a mason. More artisans are reported as on their way from Europe.

Owing to the want of local opportunities five boys were sent to the Trappist Institution at Marian Hill, Natal, a year ago, and nine more have lately gone to Lovedale, in the Cape Colony, to receive instruction in trades, all at Government expense.

At the beginning of each year a grant distribution return is submitted for approval of Government by those responsible for school management, and at the end of each quarter a return is furnished showing the attendance at schools receiving Government aid.

Schools receiving Government aid are, from time to time, inspected by Government officers, who check the attendance rolls, examine the pupils, and, at the end of the year, submit reports from each district.

Should it be in your Excellency's power to obtain occasionally the services of a deputy inspector of the Cape Educational Department to visit Basutoland, as suggested by the Secretary of

BASUTOLAND.

State, I think that the skilled technical criticism so obtained would be appreciated by all interested in Basutoland education and of material assistance to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
&c. &c. &c.
South Africa.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 102.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT BY SIR H. B. LOCH

OF HIS

VISIT TO BASUTOLAND IN APRIL 1890;

WITH A

DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1890.

LONDON:
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1890.

[C.—5897.-32.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	1888
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos Islands	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886

No. 102.

BASUTOLAND.

No. 1.

Sir H. B. LOCH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Cape Town,
May 8, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on Friday, the 25th ultimo, I arrived in Basutoland from the Orange Free State. I was met on arrival by Sir Marshall Clarke, the officials, and 12,000 mounted and armed Basutos, including every Chief in the country except Letsea, who was too old and infirm to attend. An address was presented, which is enclosed, with a copy of my reply.

The reception given me by the Basutos was most enthusiastic, and the confidence shown by Sir Marshall Clarke in the loyalty and orderly spirit of the people by inviting them to come armed was not misplaced.

On my arrival the Basutos, as I passed between their ranks, formed up in squadrons in rear and on either flank, and it was noticeable that Chiefs and clans, which but a few years ago were at war with one another, were now riding side by side, contending only in the energy with which they gave utterance to their chant of welcome, and in the cordiality of their greetings.

The reception was followed by a review in the afternoon, and on the next day, Saturday, races were held on the racecourse.

It is, I think, strong evidence of the success attained by Sir Marshall Clarke and the officers under him, that for three days about 15,000 men, gathered from all parts of Basutoland, were camped together in one camp. That during that time there was not a drunken man anywhere to be seen; that no quarrels or unpleasant incidents of any sort took place, and that, though they had all been invited to come armed, the Government had no reason to regret the confidence which it thus showed in the peaceable and orderly spirit of the people.

To enable your Lordship to appreciate properly the full significance of these facts, it is necessary I should remind you that in March 1884 when Sir Marshall Clarke first assumed the Government of Basutoland, a large section of the Basuto nation was in passive rebellion, whilst civil war was being waged between some of the principal Chiefs, and a number of Basutos had taken

BASUTOLAND.

refuge in the Free State with their families and cattle. The progress that has been achieved since then is astonishing, and I have been deeply impressed by the contrast which Basutoland presents to day.

On Monday, the 28th April, I inspected the offices, the books, and the Government stores. The buildings utilised for public offices, though neat and clean are not sufficiently commodious, and it will become necessary shortly to provide for more suitable acommodation for the various offices. Hitherto this necessary work has been delayed from motives of economy, but the prosperous condition of the finances, the estimated revenue for the whole of the current year having been realised in nine months, will justify carefully considered expenditure during the coming financial year.

The books were all well and accurately kept, showing a close attention to detail, and giving evidence of constant supervision in all the departments of the Administration. The stores were in good order, and it was evident that, whilst the greatest economy had been exercised in all purchases, complete efficiency had been secured, all the articles being of a serviceable character.

From Maseru, the head-quarters of the Government, I visited Morija and Roma, the French Protestant and the French Catholic mission stations. In both I was most hospitably received, and I had clear proof of the noble work which is being accomplished by the efforts of the missionaries and sisters who have devoted their lives to the evangelisation and civilisation of the Basuto nation.

I enclose copies of the principal addresses presented to me at these stations as well as of my replies.

On my return to Maseru I addressed the enclosed letter to the Paramount Chief Letsea, conveying to him my message of farewell and of advice as to the future conduct of the Chiefs and people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
Governor and High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

ADDRESS from LEFTSIE MOSHESH, Chief of Basutos, to Sir HENRY B. LOCH, Governor and High Commissioner.

To His Excellency Sir H. B. LOCH, The Queen's High Commissioner in South Africa.

CHIEF, Hakakhuiti, April 25, 1890.

ALLOW me, and my sons and my brothers, and the whole of people to approach you with this letter containing our prayer.

We are most thankful for to be visited by a Chief in your position who are the Queen's caretaker in South Africa, and who is also the caretaker of this territory of Basutoland.

Ever since we were visited by Sir H. Barkly in the year 1871, and although there has been other Governors, such as Sir Bartle Frere and Sir Hercules Robinson, and we were promised that they would come and visit us and examine our mode of living, but they never came. This is why we thank your coming; we trust that when you have seen us and have spoken to us, you will see that we are children of the Queen who can be trusted, and are obedient as children should obey their mother.

Ever since our father Moshesh sought a stronghold for us in the strong Government of England we were well looked after and we prospered. We have seen that if we are taken care of nicely within that stronghold that we will advance in wisdom and in comfort.

Oh, Chief, do take care of us, although we say so and repeat this prayer of ours over and over again, we repeat and say, let the Queen take care of us; let the Queen take care of us!!! We are unable to conceal from you, Chief, that we still have our misgivings with regard to this protection of ours. Although we may not touch on the matter of the gun war which pained this nation in many ways, although this is so, we do not fail to hear from passers-by that this country of ours is wished for by those who are not of our colour; we are in particular afraid if we should again be put under the herding of the Colony; for from what we see that those of our colour who are living in the Colony are unable to live comfortably.

And although our mother the Queen has again placed us under her Government (Imperial Government) we greatly fear that by the cunningness of those who do not love us we may perhaps be placed under the herding of the Colony again.

This is why we make this prayer, asking that you, Chief, will forward it to our mother the Queen, and that you will also endorse it, that Her Majesty consent to grant us a document in full, which will be a promise, and which will be a permanent evidence to witness for us, we who are alive at present, and our children, and our grandchildren who will come after us; that this country and the nation living in it will remain in the caretaking of Government (Imperial Government) for ever, and without changing.

This is my prayer, Chief, and that of my children, and of my nation, and we trust that you will listen to it, and that you will receive it nicely, and that you will cause it to reach the ears of the Queen and the ears of her Court, and that you will forward it, recommending that our request be granted us.

God save the Queen.

I have signed my name, and so has my sons and my councillors. We have put our names to this letter of our prayer, because we are all one in this matter.

BASUTOLAND.

Chief, I conclude in again thanking you for this your visit to this territory of Basutoland, and we say may you be spared in your great work, and in your visits, and in your house.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LETSIE MOSHESH,
Chief of the Basutos Ramabidikoe Matele.
together with
LEROTHODI LETSIE.
JONATHAN MOLAPO.
BERENG LETSIE.
MAAMA LETSIE.
MOJELA LETSIE.
MASUPHA MOSHESH.
PEETE LESARANA.
MOFOKO DIBE.
TSIN MAKAKANE.
MAFA MAHAO.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

From the HIGH COMMISSIONER to LETSEA, Paramount Chief, and the Chiefs of Basutoland.

Maseru, April 25, 1890.

MY FRIENDS,

I THANK you for your address and for your cordial welcome to Basutoland and I shall not fail to convey to the Queen your expressions of loyalty and attachment.

It has given me much pleasure to come amongst you and to become personally acquainted with the Chiefs and people of the Basuto Nation. The reception you have given me will remain impressed on my mind, and when I return to Cape Town I will remember the faces of those I have met in Basutoland. It will be my constant care to give every support to Sir Marshall Clarke in the promotion of your welfare and prosperity.

I have noted what you say about the reports you have heard and the apprehensions you feel respecting a change in your government; I have not heard those reports.

There is no intention of making any alteration in your government; and I may add that neither from my ministers nor from the people of the Cape Colony have I heard any desire expressed to resume the government of Basutoland. My word to you is this: You are subjects of the Queen, but the Colonists also are subjects of the Queen, and it is not good that those of the same house should be suspicious of one another; they should live in friendship and as of one nation.

I shall communicate as you wish your address to the Queen, but in doing so I will say that your apprehensions are unfounded

and that the Colonial people desire only the peace and happiness of the Basuto nation.

My friends, it is good that you should speak your thoughts to me frankly and from the heart. In this way misapprehensions can best be removed and you can learn to feel confidence in your Government, which it should be your constant effort to support.

Again thanking you for your cordial welcome and for your friendship,

I remain always your Friend,
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

À son Excellence Sir HENRY BROUGHAM LOCH, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Haut Commissaire de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, au sud l'Afrique.

VOTRE EXCELLENCE,

LA Conférence des missionnaires de la Société des Missions de Paris est heureuse de l'occasion qui lui a été offerte de vous souhaîter la bienvenue et de vous apporter l'expression de son dévouement. Elle est heureuse de pouvoir remercier directement le représentant de Sa Majesté au sud de l'Afrique, de la protection qui lui a toujours été accordée et des subsides que son Gouvernement a de tous temps donnés à nos Écoles, et qui nous ont permis de poursuivre et d'étendre notre œuvre éducatrice et religieuse. Nous sommes reconnaissants de la paix dont le pays jouit maintenant, et espérons que, par la prédication de la Parole de Dieu, et l'instruction qui se répand de plus en plus, ainsi que par les bienfaits d'une civilisation libérale et chrétienne, l'avenir de la tribu sera assuré. Nous sommes tout particulièrement reconnaissants des efforts que le Gouvernement de la Reine a faits, d'accord avec la majorité des chefs, pour interdire l'introduction des spiritueux dans le pays, et sauver la tribu du fléau de l'alcoolisme, et reconnaissons avec plaisir qu'ils ont été couronnés d'un succès réel.

Votre Excellence sera intéressée de savoir que la Société de Paris a commencé son œuvre missionnaire dans ce pays il y a 57 ans; elle y possède, ainsi que dans le Griqualand East, 15 statious centrales, 111 annexes et 117 écoles. Elles emploie 205 évangélistes et compte aujourd'hui environ 10,000 membres, et donne, dans ses Écoles primaires l'instruction à 6,000 enfants. Nos Écoles supérieures à Morija, Thaba Bosigō, et Leloaleng comptent aujourd'hui 150 élèves.

Que Dieu bénisse pour le sud de l'Afrique tout entier, et le Basutoland en particulier, les années que vous y passerez, et, puissent les nombreuses tribus indigènes de cette partie du continent Africain se développer et progresser sous votre adminis-

Basutoland.

tration. C'est pour nous une opinion bien arrêtée et fondée sur une expérience, que seuls les bienfaits de la paix et d'une instruction chrétienne, pourront faire des natifs des membres utiles de la société. La visite que votre Excellence nous fait aujourd'hui nous montre que le progrès des missions chrétiennes et le bienêtre des tribus indigènes vous tiennent particulièrement au cœur.

Que Dieu protége votre Excellence.

Au nom de la Conférence des Missionnaires de la Société des Missions Evangéliques de Paris, assemblée à Morija, le 29 Avril 1890.

Le Président,
P. Germond.
Le Secrétaire,
H. E. Mabille.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

To His Excellency Sir Henry Brougham Loch, Governor of the Cape Colony and High Commissioner, South Africa.

May it please your Excellency,

It is with sentiments of the greatest happiness that we have the honour of welcoming your Excellency to our mission of Roma.

It is now more than 25 years since Sir Philip Wodehouse, then Governor of the Cape Colony, paid a visit to this mission, it being then in its infanc .

To-day your Excellency has condescended to honour us by your presence, which is the second most important visit since the foundation of the mission.

We recognise the importance of your Excellency's visit, because it will give us the greatest encouragement in the prosecuting of the work which we have undertaken in Basutoland for Christianising and civilising the natives.

Therefore, it is with sentiments of joy and gratitude that we, the missionaries, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, in union with our Bishop, together with the Sisters of the Holy Family, and in the name also of our Christians, that we offer to your Excellency our respectful greetings.

We must not omit also to join the name of Sir Marshall Clarke, the most worthy representative of the Queen in Basutoland

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Enclosure 5 in No. 1.

REPLY by the HIGH COMMISSIONER to Address from the Missionary Society to the Basutos.

GENTLEMEN,

I THANK you very sincerely for your welcome to Basutoland, and I rejoice to hear that the noble and beneficent work which you have undertaken in this land is prospering.

The evidence of your devotion to your labours is apparent in the moral and material progress made by the Basuto nation, and it will always be a gratification to Sir M. Clarke and to myself if we are enabled to aid you in your humane and Christian work.

The advantages to Government and to moral and religions progress which have been secured by the prohibition of the liquor traffic have been especially apparent to me and I have every confidence that by your teaching you will strengthen and encourage the people in practising the temperance and self-denial which is so necessary to their preservation.

Your long and glorious history of missionary work is well known to me, and I pray that the members of your society may long be spared to carry the blessings of Christianity and civilisation amongst the heathen races of this continent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure 6 in No. 1.

REPLY to Address from Missionaries at Roma.

To the Missionaries and the Sisters of the Mission Station at Roma.

I THANK you sincerely for your welcome to your beautiful mision station, a station which your patient industry has done so much to adorn.

Your kindness has enabled me to see for myself the good practical work you are doing in this country, and I have witnessed with admiration and the deepest reverence the result achieved by your self-sacrificing devotion.

You may always count on the sympathy and support of Sir Marshall Clarke and myself in your noble work, and I pray that God may reward your efforts and that civilisation and Christianity may be spread by means of your schools and congregations.

(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
Governor and High Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND.

Enclosure 7 in No. 1.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to Paramount Chief LETSEA.

To the Paramount Chief LETSEA.

MY FRIEND, Maseru, May 1, 1890.

BEFORE leaving Maseru I desire to inform you that I have paid this visit to Basutoland with the view of showing to you, to the Chiefs, and to the people, the interest the Queen and I, her representative, take in the welfare of the country, and likewise to afford you and the Chiefs the opportunity of speaking face to face with me upon any matters affecting your domestic interests.

I have been much pleased to see on all sides the evidence of the good resulting from the peace which you have enjoyed during the past six years under the wise administration of Sir Marshall Clarke, in the agricultural wealth, and in the general prosperity of all classes in the country.

I am also glad to learn from Sir Marshall Clarke that the Chiefs, as a rule, exercise with discretion the authority with which the Queen has entrusted them, but I desire to remind the Chiefs that they hold this authority, as well as any additional duties which, in compliance with their recent petition, I may entrust to them, only so long as they discharge these duties with loyalty to the Queen and justice to the people.

I look to you and the Chiefs to assist Sir Marshall Clarke to their (*sic*) utmost power to prevent the introduction of intoxicating liquor so that your people may be preserved from the inevitable ruin to the nation that would be sure to follow an unrestrained admission of drink into the country.

I would further impress upon the Chiefs the importance of their working together in a spirit of friendship as the future fate of the country depends upon their thus acting in amity with each other.

The Queen takes care of a united Basuto nation, but she could not recognise or permit divisions and anarchy between those who should show to their people an example of peace and friendship.

I am glad to have met your sons and other chiefs and I trust you and they will ever conduct yourselves as loyal and faithful subjects of the great Queen, to whom is due your grateful allegiance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH.

No. 2.

Sir H. B. LOCH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Cape Town,
May 21, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a Despatch to Sir Marshall Clarke, expressing appreciation of his administration of Basutoland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
Governor and High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to Sir MARSHALL CLARKE.

Government House, Cape Town,
May 21, 1890.

SIR,

AT the conclusion of my visit to Basutoland I desire to express to you and to the officers of the Basutoland Government my high appreciation of the progress made in the administration of the territory and in the enforcement of the lawful authority amongst the inhabitants of the country.

I am aware that the success which has been achieved is in a great part due to your personal influence and character, but your efforts would have been paralyzed had you not received the most loyal co-operation from your officers, and I desire they should know that I fully understand the value of the services rendered by them.

I would be glad, too, if you could convey to the heads of the missionary societies my thanks for the kindness with which they received me. I have long been aware of the valuable aid they have frequently given to the Basutoland Government, and it has been a gratification to me to witness the practical working of institutions of which I have heard so much.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH,
Governor and High Commissioner.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Marshall Clarke,
K.C.M.G.

No. 3.

LORD KNUTSFORD to Sir H. B. LOCH.

SIR, Downing Street, June 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches of the 8th of May,* reporting your visit to Basutoland, and of the 21st of May,† enclosing copy of a letter to the Resident Commissioner on the subject.

I have read with the greatest interest the graphic account of your reception by the Basutos, and I am pleased that you have been able so unreservedly to add your testimony to the great improvement in their condition.

I need hardly repeat any expression of the high appreciation which Her Majesty's Government entertain of the excellent work done by Sir Marshall Clarke, to whom the Basuto people are permanently indebted for an administration of almost unparalleled success. I will only add that I fully concur in your own appreciation of the good services rendered also by the other officers of the Basutoland Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

Sir H. B. Loch.

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* No. 1. † No. 2.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 97.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPT. 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 44.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.

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1890.

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REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
47	New Zealand	1887
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,

No. 97.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 44.)

Lieutenant-General H. A. SMYTH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Cape Town,
November 14, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, the report of the Administrator of British Bechuanaland for the past year.

I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice the progress attained by the territory, as well as the services of the officers engaged in the various branches of the administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. SMYTH, Lieut.-General,
Administrator and
Acting High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Vryburg, November 7, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Excellency's information the following reports from heads of departments showing the development and condition of British Bechuanaland and the progress made in and beyond the Protectorate during the year which ended on the 30th September 1889:—

		Page.
1.	The Acting Commandant, Bechuanaland Border Police, forwarding report from Medical Officer, Elebe River - - -	12
2.	The Crown Prosecutor - - -	25
3.	The Acting Receiver-General - -	27
4.	The Surveyor-General - - -	30
5.	The Registrar of Deeds - - -	32
6.	The Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs - - - -	32
7.	The Inspector of Native Reserves - -	38
8.	The Government Storekeeper - -	39
9.	The Master of the Chief Magistrate's Court -	41

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BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Page.
10. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate, Vryburg - - - - 42
11. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate, Mafeking - - - - 44
12. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate, Taungs - - - - 46
13. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate, Kuruman - - - - 50
14. The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate, Gordonia - - - - 52
15. The District Surgeon of Vryburg - - 53

As regards the maintenance of tranquillity and friendly relations along the Transvaal Border, Mr. van Niekerk, Commissioner for the South-western Border of the South African Republic, has continued to merit a good report and his efforts have been well seconded on our side.

I regret to have again to call attention to the inconvenience and loss occasioned by the want of certain necessary Conventions between the Government of British Bechuanaland and that of the South African Republic, especially by that of an Extradition Convention.

In the interests of the inhabitants of both sides of the Border there is urgent need for reciprocity on the following points:—

I. Extradition of criminals.
II. Compulsory attendance of witnesses.
III. Recovery of stolen stock.
IV. Recognition of native passes.
V. Postal and telegraphic communication.

It would also be desirable to arrive at a good understanding on the following points:—

VI. Prohibition of sale of liquor to natives (at least within a certain distance of the Bechuanaland border).
VII. Execution of civil judgments on endorsement of writ.
VIII. Recognition of probate and letters of administration.
IX. Free trade in Colonial or local produce.

It is hardly necessary to say that, as far as we are concerned, every reasonable concession would be made, and every possible facility would be gladly given, with a view to securing all or any of these public benefits to both sides.

Notwithstanding the absence of an Extradition Convention, I am glad to be able to state that on some points a good understanding already exists between Courts of Justice on either side. Quite recently certain deserters from the Bechuanaland Border Police were arrested in the South African Republic at the request of this Government, tried in a Landdrost's Court, and on conviction adequately punished for bringing into Transvaal territory certain articles stolen by them in Bechuanaland Protectorate,

theft being, under such circumstances, treated as a continuous offence according to Roman-Dutch law.

The goodwill exhibited in this case encourages the hope that the day may not be far distant when a perfect understanding will be arrived at between the respective Governments on some at least of the points above mentioned.

During the past year legislative proclamations have been issued for the following objects:—

To abolish licensing courts and to invest the Administrator with the power of authorising or refusing the grant, renewal, or transfer of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. (No. 58, B. B., 1889.)

To regulate the exportation of arms, ammunition, and other warlike articles beyond the boundaries of British Bechuanaland. (No. 59, B. B., 1889.)

To establish a Court of Resident Magistrate for the District of Gordonia, and to define the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Courts of Resident Magistrate for the Districts of Taungs, Kuruman, and Gordonia respectively. (No. 60, B. B., 1889.)

To invest Courts of Resident Magistrate with certain powers in respect of immovable property situated in districts beyond the limits of the local jurisdiction of such courts when any civil suit or proceeding *in rem* shall be instituted against any person resident in a district other than that in which such property is situated; and also to provide for the endorsement of writs of execution in districts other than that of the Resident Magistrate by whom judgment was pronounced. (No. 61, B. B., 1889.)

To determine the tenure of Native Reserves, and to vest title thereto in trustees, and to define the powers and duties of such trustees. (No. 62, B. B., 1889.)

To make provision for prospecting and mining for the precious minerals, gold, silver, and platinum. (No. 63, B. B., 1889.)

To amend and consolidate the law for the prevention and punishment of the offence of selling, exchanging, or giving to or procuring for any native, any wine, spirituous, or partly spirituous liquor; and to make further provision for the punishment of the said offence by providing that, in addition to other penalties, forfeiture of license may be adjudged in case of any conviction at any time. (No. 64, B. B., 1889.)

To make provision in terms of the Foreign Letters of Administration Act of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, No. 8 of 1888, for the recognition in the territory of British Bechuanaland of letters of administration granted in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and in other states. (No. 65, B. B., 1889.)

To provide for the performance of the duties of Registrar of Deeds by an officer appointed in that behalf instead of by the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate of Vryburg; and to amend section 40 of the Schedule to Proclamation No. 2, B. B., 1885, accordingly. (No. 66, B. B., 1889.)

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

To make better provision for the adjustment of disputed boundaries between farms held by virtue of a certificate of ownership. (No. 67, B. B., 1889.)

To make provision for the summary punishment of the crime of perjury. (No. 68, B. B., 1889.)

To regulate the administration of the District of Gordonia by dissolving the Committee of Management; repealing all laws, regulations, and resolutions having the force of law passed by such Committee; declaring the laws of British Bechuanaland to be in force throughout the District of Gordonia so far as applicable; making better provision for the administration of justice; declaring the township of Upington to be subject to the provisions of the Villages Management Acts, save in respect of water supply; and making the Police Offences Act applicable to the said township of Upington. (No. 69, B. B., 1889.)

To invest boards of management for townships with the rights and powers of municipalities with respect to native locations and native huts, and also with certain rights and powers with regard to the leasing of lands within the limits of the town commonage. (No. 70, B. B., 1889.)

The inquiry held last year into the circumstances attending the death of the late Mr. Grobler has led to the adoption of measures which have thus far secured peace on the north-eastern border of the Protectorate.

Our relations with the Chief Lo Bengula and his people continue to be friendly; but it is impossible to ignore the difficulties which encompass those engaged in the arduous task of bringing civilising influences to bear on the Matebele. The tact, judgment, and firmness exhibited on all occasions and under most trying circumstances by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Moffat, merit special recognition.

The news that Her Majesty the Queen had been graciously pleased to grant a Royal Charter under the Great Seal to the company which is about to undertake the development of the regions to the north and north-east of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, appears to have afforded great satisfaction to the public throughout South Africa; and it is hoped that this great company may prove a means of removing many of those obstacles which have hitherto tended to retard progress in this part of the world.

The report of the officer in command of the police in the Protectorate furnishes details which sufficiently demonstrate the nature and value of the work done by the force.

In order to strengthen as much as possible the position of the police in the north-east of the Protectorate, the number of men in British Bechuanaland has been reduced below the minimum of efficiency, and it will be necessary to raise the number of police employed in this territory at least sufficiently to provide for the requirements of the district of Gordonia, the maintenance of peace along the border of the German Protectorate, and the patrolling of the Langberg.

It is gratifying to gather from the reports of the Crown Prosecutor and Resident Magistrates that there have been, comparatively speaking, few instances of crime of a serious nature during the past year. This may be attributed to the strict and impartial administration of justice, the vigilance and activity of the police, the loyal co-operation of the native Chiefs and headmen, and the prohibition of the sale of liquor to natives.

That the Chiefs and their relatives should view with regret the gradual diminution of the patriarchal power is only natural. As regards their people the confidential reports made to me from time to time by those in the best position to judge, enable me to state with confidence that the vast mass of the natives in British Bechuanaland remain contented with their present lot and loyal towards Her Majesty's Government.

Apprehensions were at one time entertained as to possible scarcity of food among the natives in consequence of protracted drought; but the rains now beginning to fall throughout the territory will, in all probability, remove this cause of anxiety.

I concur with the Crown Prosecutor in thinking that the appointment of special justices of the peace, with the statutory jurisdiction conferred by the Cape law in force here, would prove satisfactory to the farmers in certain wards in the district of Vrybrug, inasmuch as they would be thereby exempted from the necessity of travelling long distances in order to prosecute persons charged with minor offences, such as common assaults, contravention of the Pound Ordinance, of the Masters and Servants Acts, &c.

The appointments of special justices of the peace would of course involve some outlay for salaries, the construction and maintenance of offices and places for temporary detention, and also for the removal of prisoners to the seat of magistracy. On grounds of humanity it would be inexpedient to evade the necessity for such expenditure by conferring on special justices of the peace by means of express legislation a summary power of inflicting corporal punishment in the absence of medical supervision and without the safeguard of previous judicial sanction. Under the strict limitations of the Cape law the system of special justices of the peace has been found to work well. A beginning has already been made in this territory, and I propose gradually to extend the system in order to provide for the growing wants of the farming population in places remote from a seat of magistracy.

I agree generally with Mr. Vintcent in his estimate of the advantages that would result from the establishment of a Recorder's Court, similar to that which existed in Griqualand West down to the annexation of that province to the Cape Colony. The present system, whereby unlimited primary jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, has been conferred upon Resident Magistrates, was intended at the outset to be a temporary and economical makeshift pending the annexation of this territory to the Cape Colony. On the whole it has answered better than might have been anticipated up to the present time; but it is confessedly anomalous and unsatisfactory in many respects, and is not cal-

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

culated to suffice for the requirements of an European community. If a large population were suddenly attracted to this territory it might be advisable to anticipate public demands by establishing a Recorder's Court, and at the same time reducing the jurisdiction of Courts of Resident Magistrate.

The report of the Acting Receiver-General affords proof of the constant care and attention bestowed on the public accounts.

In the estimates for the current financial year certain items of revenue have been overstated, while on the other hand the expenditure on certain votes must necessarily exceed the amount put down ; hence the need for supplementary estimates this year. On the revenue side the amounts likely to be derived from land sales, hut tax, post office, and telegraphs, have been over-estimated. The probable deficiency under the head of land sales will, however, be solely attributable to the prohibition of further sales of vacant Crown land now required as part of the consideration to be given to the company which has undertaken the construction of a railway through this territory. But for this there would be a considerable excess over the amount of estimated receipts from land sales, as the demand for vacant Crown land at the upset price in this territory has increased of late to a remarkable extent. The estimated amount to be derived from transfer duty will probably be exceeded owing to the formation of syndicates and companies prepared to purchase farms at values enhanced in consequence of alleged mineral discoveries. The chief increase of expenditure will be occasioned by the necessity of keeping the main body of the Bechuanaland Border Police in the north-east of the Protectorate, at a great distance from the base of supplies.

The work done by the department of the Surveyor-General during the past year has been highly satisfactory in all respects. The system of cheap surveys of farms by prismatic compass, introduced by Mr. Duncan in connexion with the trigonometrical survey of the territory, has fully answered every expectation. The value of a geodetic survey of the kind now being carried out in British Bechuanaland appears to be regarded by those competent to judge as almost incalculable in view of the alleged mineral resources of the country. The annexure* to the Surveyor-General's Report contains a critical review of the trigonometrical survey of British Bechuanaland, kindly furnished by Dr. David Gill, F.R.S., Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope. Dr. Gill describes the work as a secondary triangulation of the highest quality, having only three times the probable error of the geodetic survey of South Africa, and nearly equalling the accuracy of the Ordnance Survey of England. A geological survey of British Bechuanaland is much needed, and would ultimately more than repay its cost. Mr. Duncan has at my request privately ascertained all particulars from high authorities in England, and I shall have the honour of submitting for approval an estimate for carrying out this work. In connexion

* Not printed.

with this subject I may add that, with a view to preparing the way for a complete geological survey, the surveyors employed on the trigonometrical survey have, from the beginning, determined the relative heights of all stations, and carefully delineated the topographical features of the country, the plans of which thus show the drainage areas and watersheds.

The work of the Deeds Registry has been performed by Mr. Genis in a thoroughly efficient and satisfactory manner. The system of land registration as carried out in this territory has all the advantages of certainty, cheapness, and simplicity. There has been a decrease, comparatively speaking, in the revenue from this department owing to a period of depression, from which, however, there has recently been a recovery, indicated by the rarity of mortgages and the steady increase in the value of landed property.

In May 1889 the Postal and Telegraph Departments, heretofore worked separately, were amalgamated and placed under Mr. J. E. Middleton, late of the Cape Civil Service, and an Associate of the Society of Telegraph Engineers and Electricians. Mr. Middleton's last previous appointment was that of Surveyor and District Engineer in the Postal and Telegraph Department for the Northern Division of the Cape Colony. There is every reason to believe that the management of a department of daily increasing importance has been placed in good hands, and will continue to prove satisfactory.

The conveyance of mails once a week each way between Kimberley and Khama's new capital in the Chapong Hills, near Palachwe, has been entrusted, under a three years' agreement, to the Bechuanaland Exploration Company. Between Palachwe and Bulawayo viâ the Tati the mails will continue to be conveyed by native runners. Between Palachwe and the camp of the Bechuanaland Border Police at the Elebe River or elsewhere the mails will be still carried by the police. The postal route between Mafeking and Bulawayo is as follows: Kanya, Molepolole, Mochudi, Notwani Junction, Palachwe, and the Tati.

The parcels post, money order, and postal draft systems are all in working order in British Bechuanaland only.

As regards the telegraph, the substitution of a good No. 8 wire for the light military stranded wire left by Sir Charles Warren is a vast improvement, and will effect a considerable saving in maintenance, as the new wire is far less liable to be fused by lightning during the thunderstorms which prevail here at certain seasons. The British South Africa Company has undertaken the construction of 500 miles of telegraph in the Protectorate; a noble work which will connect Matebeleland with the civilised world.

Notwithstanding the sudden falling off in receipts in consequence of the opening of a line of telegraph from Johannesburg to Kimberley viâ Klerksdorp, there is reason to hope for a gradual and steady increase in the revenue from both post and telegraph in this territory.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

The Inspector of Native Reserves, Mr. Clifford St. Quintin, has continued to perform his functions as collector of hut tax, and (virtually) protector of natives, to the satisfaction of all concerned. The general contentment of the natives is undoubtedly due in some degree to the tact and kindly feeling exhibited by this officer, and to his knowledge of and sympathy with native ideas.

The surveys of which Mr. St. Quintin speaks in his annual report are, apparently, those in the neighbourhood of the Batlaros and the Langberg. On reference to the Report of the Land Commission it will be seen that as the limited time at their disposal rendered it impossible for the members of the Commission to make any tours west of Honing Vley and Tsening, they were unable to make any recommendations regarding those portions of British Bechuanaland which comprise the Kalahari Desert and the Langberg District. The present advanced state of the surveys in the Langberg District will shortly render it possible to come to a decision with regard to the marking off of reserves for Toto's people, and in this difficult and delicate task Mr. St. Quintin's assistance will be of considerable value. In view both of the justice of the case, and of the expediency of cultivating the best possible relations with the Batlaro tribe through their paramount Chief, I shall be prepared to recommend that a small annual grant or pension be paid to Toto from the time when his Reserves shall have been marked off, the Katoos Bush declared a Crown Reserve, and the rest of his country laid out in European farms.

[C. 1889], p. 14, par. 40

The report of the Master of the Chief Magistrate's Court shows that there have been no insolvencies in this territory during the past year. Provision should be made for a safe or a strong-room for preserving the records and securities deposited in the Master's office.

The reports of the Civil Commissioners and Resident Magistrates of Vryburg, Mafeking, and Gordonia respectively, contain references to gold prospecting. All I can say on this subject is that it has not yet been proved to the satisfaction of the Government that a payable gold-field exists in British Bechuanaland.

The Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate of Kuruman refers in his report to the value of the forest commonly called the Katoos Bush. The question of the conservation of the forests of British Bechuanaland merits consideration, and now that the survey of the Katoos Bush is completed, I would propose to make a beginning of the work of conserving forests by appointing an European caretaker of the Katoos Bush at a moderate salary, which might be more than covered by the proceeds of judicious thinnings, and by the sale of the dead wood to the diamond mining companies at Kimberley. Arrangements should be made for the regular and systematic planting of trees likely to thrive in this soil and climate. A Forest Department, under the Surveyor-General, might be rendered a source of permanent revenue, to say

nothing of its inestimable value to the public; and I shall have the honour to submit proposals with this object in the Estimate for the next financial year.

The most urgent of the many wants of British Bechuanaland is undoubtedly that of medical aid and hospitals. In the estimates for the current financial year provision was made for a district surgeon at each seat of magistracy, at a salary of 100*l.* per annum, except at Mafeking, where the salary was fixed at 50*l.*, as the appointment was formerly held by the medical officer of the police, who is now stationed about 300 miles to the north of Mafeking.

In point of fact there is only one medical man, the district surgeon of Vryburg, in the whole of British Bechuanaland. It has been found impossible to induce medical practitioners to accept the terms offered by the Government at the other seats of magistracy. At Mafeking the European inhabitants have lately guaranteed a certain annual income to a doctor on the understanding that the official salary will not be less than 100*l.* per annum. This sum will accordingly be placed on next year's estimates for a district surgeon for Mafeking.

The need of hospitals is sorely felt. The mortality among the natives is at times very great, notwithstanding the aid rendered by the missionaries. The building and endowment of village hospitals, and also of one good central hospital, ought to be the first object to which any surplus revenue hereafter should be devoted.

Next in importance comes the question of education. The sum of 300*l.* has been placed on this year's estimates for the purpose of aiding educational effort, and will of course be carefully distributed in accordance with the directions received on the subject. As regards the expenditure of one-third of this sum, which is to be devoted to aiding the farmers of the district of Vryburg in their endeavours to secure primary education for their children, it will be necessary to rely entirely on the discretion of the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, Vryburg.

In addition to this grant in aid the annual sum of 20*l.* has been specially promised for the public school at Upington, and of 50*l.* for the public school at Keimoes, in the district of Gordonia.

I desire to express my obligation to Sir Langham Dale, K.C.M.G., Superintendent-General of Education in the Cape Colony, for his kindness and courtesy and the valuable aid which he has promised in the work of establishing public schools in British Bechuanaland. In order to secure the best local assistance I have deemed it expedient to appoint a board of education consisting of clergymen, officials, and professional men interested in the question, reserving to myself power to add to their number. With the aid of these gentlemen, who will of course utilise as far as possible all existing educational machinery, public schools may shortly be established both in Vryburg and Mafeking.

It is hardly necessary to say that the recent intelligence with regard to the construction of a railway between Kimberley and Vryburg by the Chartered Company has been received with

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

great rejoicing by the European inhabitants of British Bechuanaland. Trade has, by all accounts, been steadily increasing of late, especially with the Protectorate and countries beyond, the only serious check being the restrictions on the importation of arms and ammunition recently imposed by the Government of the Cape Colony. Ammunition for hunting purposes is the chief necessary of life for vast numbers of natives in the interior. A sudden refusal to grant the permits required by law must paralyse legitimate trade and alienate the natives, and may lead to smuggling on a large scale or to the diversion of trade into other channels, especially through the Transvaal and Natal.

The progress of the Colony of British Bechuanaland in the fourth year of its existence, though slow, has been all that could have been fairly expected with the comparatively slender means at our disposal. No effort has been wanting on the part of the officers responsible for the safety and welfare of the community, and I have every reason to feel grateful for the loyal and cordial co-operation of the members of the Civil Service.

The chief value of this Colony must always be the trade route to the interior. Only by means of a great trunk line of railway can the advantages of that route be secured to the Cape Colony. Everything points to the necessity for ultimate railway extension to the Zambesi Valley, and both the commercial and the administrative centre must from time to time necessarily be shifted further and further north.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY SHIPPARD,
Administrator and Chief Magistrate of British Bechuanaland, and Deputy Commissioner.

His Excellency
The Governor and
Acting High Commissioner,
Cape Town.

Enclosure No. 1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BECHUANALAND BORDER POLICE, 1888–9.

Khama and Transvaal.

The Annual Report of the Bechuanaland Border Police for 1887–8 was compiled to the 14th August 1888; at that date Major Goold-Adams with a small force of police (one officer and 40 men) was acting as escort to his Honour the Administrator who was *en route* to Khama's territory, British Protectorate, to investigate the circumstances of a recent disturbance between some followers of the Chief Khama and a party of Boers under the

leadership of one Grobelaar, said to be the representative of the Transvaal Government to Lo Bengula, the Matebele King.

Visit to Matebele King.

On the conclusion of the conference, his Honour, accompanied by Major Goold-Adams and an escort of 16 men, proceeded northward to visit the Matebele King, Lo Bengula. Arriving at the Great Kraal on the 13th October, on first entering Matebeleland, the reception of the party was somewhat doubtful, but after reaching the King's kraal and during the return journey they were more favourably treated. His Honour and Major Goold-Adams having exchanged several friendly visits with the King, the party left Buluwayo on the 23rd October on their return journey to Mafeking, at which station they arrived on 8th December. The general health of the escort had been good throughout, and the conduct and discipline of the men was made the subject of a special letter of commendation from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Sir H. Robinson, stating that "Her Majesty's Government have highly approved their conduct."

Two new police stations in the Protectorate were formed at this time, (1) at Bains' Drift, Crocodile River, under Lieutenant Lochner, with 24 men; (2) at the junction of the Ngatwani and Crocodile Rivers, of one non-commissioned officer and four men; these stations were both on the Transvaal border, and were found useful for patrolling and forwarding information to head-quarters; they received every assistance from the Chief Khama.

Strength last Report.

On the 14th August 1888, the strength of the force was as follows, viz.:—Two troops, consisting of 12 officers, 20 non-commissioned officers, 118 troopers, and 49 native troopers (Basutos); total all ranks, 199, exclusive of native drivers and leaders.

Basuto Police discontinued.

In last year's report the discharge of the Basuto Police, whose enrolment commenced in October 1887, was advocated, and in a letter to his Honour the Administrator, dated 12th December 1888, Major Goold-Adams again strongly urged this course, the experiment having proved an entire failure. His Excellency the High Commissioner, under date 3rd January 1889, was pleased to approve of the services of these Basutos being dispensed with on completion of their original engagement. There were at that time only 22 still serving in the force, and these, with the exception of seven, were discharged as their time expired.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

Seven Basutos elected to remain in the corps as drivers, and were transferred to the transport strength. All Basutos compulsorily discharged (except for misconduct) were allowed free transport to Kimberley, if desired.

In a Minute, dated Maseru, 21st January 1889, Colonel Sir M. Clarke, Resident Commissioner, Basutoland, attributes the failure of these Basutos as police in Bechuanaland (1) "That the men "were not of the best, as, owing to the alarmist rumours at the "time of enrolment, many of those originally selected by him "begged to be allowed to withdraw, and, as time was an "object, had to be replaced by such men as were immediately "available." (2) "To their being distributed into small detachments." These causes may have conduced to their failure, but bad riding, dread of night work, and seeming incapability of learning the country or following spoor, and the disturbing reports they spread amongst the natives with reference to their successful resistance to being disarmed in the Basuto war, were also strongly against their usefulness.

Increase of Strength.

Owing to the unsettled state of affairs in Bechuanaland and the Protectorate towards the close of 1888, Her Majesty's Government sanctioned an increase of the force to 350 all ranks, the new command being conferred on Colonel Sir F. Carrington; recruiting was commenced from the 1st of January, Kimberley being chosen as the recruiting depôt. The conditions of pay and service were the same as 1887–8, and before the end of the month nearly the full numbers required had been enrolled. Applications to join were much more numerous than there were vacancies to admit of, the difficulty being to select men of good character who would be likely to prove suitable for the work.

Officers.

The number of officers has been increased from 12 to 18, necessitated by the formation of the force (from two) into four troops on its establishment being raised to 350 officers and men from 1st January 1889.

The following appointments, promotions, &c. have taken place during the year:—

Colonel Sir F. Carrington, S. W. B. Regiment, appointed Commandant, 4th January 1889.

Captain W. Grey, 6th Dragoons, appointed Captain and Staff Officer, 18th January 1889.

Captain F. R. P. MacAdam, W. York Regiment, appointed Captain, 4th January 1889.

Captain W. F. Coleman, Suffolk Regiment, appointed Captain, 8th March 1889.

Lieutenant C. E. Lawrie, R.A., appointed Lieutenant, 4th January 1889.

Lieutenant E. C. Chamley Turner, R. Scots Regiment, appointed Lieutenant, 9th February 1889.

Lieutenant Hon. C. J. Coventry, 3rd Worcester Regiment, appointed Lieutenant, 28th March 1889.

Lieutenant R. E. Benson, E. York Regiment, appointed Lieutenant, 11th July 1889.

G. P. L. Pemberton, Esq., appointed Sub-Lieutenant, 18th January 1889.

W. G. Holt, Esq., appointed Sub-Lieutenant, 1st April 1889.

Captain H. Goold-Adams, R. Scots Regiment, promoted Major (local), 20th September 1888.

Captain W. Grey, 6th Dragoons, promoted Major (local), 16th February 1889.

Lieutenant C. E. Lawrie, R.A., promoted Captain, 1st April 1889.

Sub-Lieutenant W. E. Fuller, promoted Lieutenant, 1st April 1889.

Paymaster E. H. C. Macpherson, promoted Captain, 1st May 1889.

Quartermaster-Sergeant A. J. Wight, promoted Sub-Lieutenant, 4th March 1889.

Captain G. Puzey, resigned commission, 19th March 1889.

Lieutenant C. S. West, resigned commission, 24th November 1888.

Sub-Lieutenant F. W. Lochner, resigned commission, 28th February 1889.

Sub-Lieutenant W. P. White, resigned commission, 28th February 1889.

Lieutenant F. E. Lochner, services dispensed with, 17th May 1889.

Dr. A. P. Green, salary increased 50*l.* per annum, 1st April 1889.

I wish specially to draw your Honour's attention to the assistance I have received from the present staff and troop officers; the way in which they have worked together ensured things going satisfactorily; they have invariably shown the greatest zeal and interest in their duties, in the raising, equipping, and drilling (including gun drill and a heliograph class) of the young hands; in the breaking in of horses; in the arduous march from Taungs to Elebe, a distance of about 500 miles; and, since being in this camp, of placing it in a suitable state of defence, and the erection of huts, &c. for the accommodation of their men.

Present Strength.

The force is now divided into four troops, and the following was its strength and constitution (exclusive of natives) on the 14th

August 1889, viz.:—1 colonel commandant, 2 majors, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 sub-lieutenants, 1 adjutant and quartermaster, 1 paymaster, 1 medical officer.

Total officers - - - -	18
Non-commissioned officers - -	33
Troopers - - - -	284
Grand total -	335

being an increase of 6 officers, 13 non-commissioned officers, and 166 troopers.

Casualties.

The following statement* shows in detail all casualties among officers, N.-C. officers, troopers, and Basutos during the year.

Promotions during the year have been fairly apportioned between the old and new men.

Discharges.—Of the 36 shown as by request, 20 were men whose first period of service had expired, having already served over two years. The sum of 28*l.* on account of these privileged discharges was recovered from the men under authority of his Excellency the High Commissioner, April 1888.

Of the 34 for misconduct, 6 only were old members, and 12 were recruits discharged for absence before leaving Kimberley in failing to appear when ordered to parade for march up country (no pay or clothing was issued to these men). Of nine discharged on conviction by civil power, there were (white) 4 for theft; 1 for perjury; 1 for murder (Basutos); 3 for assault. Of the 13 medically unfit 1 was through an accident (mentioned in last report) necessitating amputation, 10 were reported unfit to proceed up country, and 2 were on account of natural causes.

Of the 14 desertions stated, all were recruits. 12 took place from Mafeking in May (within a week) just prior to the force leaving for the Protectorate, and it undoubtedly arose through the proximity of the Transvaal Gold Fields, and the consequent attractions to young men. In one case no Government property was taken by the deserter, and there were two desertions on the line of march in the Protectorate, when close to the Transvaal border; four (4) Government horses, with saddlery, were stolen. All the above men were traced into the Transvaal, but owing to there being no extradition treaty between this territory and the Transvaal, it was absolutely impossible to arrest these deserters once they had crossed the border, and it would be very difficult to recover any property that may have been stolen.

I regret to have to report three deaths within the year, viz., Basuto "Tommy," at Langberg, from natural causes. Trooper Lotcho, at Schaapfontein, suicide. Trooper Barry, stabbed at

* Not printed.

Mafeking; the murderer, Trooper Gilmore, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death at Mafeking in May last, the sentence being afterwards commuted by his Excellency to 20 years penal servitude. Another death occurred, that of Trooper H. Jarvis, at the Elebe River, on 26th August, through the accidental discharge of his revolver.

Extra Duty Pay.

The following new appointments were specially sanctioned on the increase of the force, viz., farrier major, at 10*s.* per diem; hospital sergeant, at 6*s.* per diem; and three skilled artificers (mason, carpenter, and wheelwright), at 2*s.* per diem each.

Native Strength.

Owing to the increase of the force and the larger portion being stationed in the Protectorate, ox transport was absolutely necessary; this entailed the addition of a large number of drivers and leaders to the native establishment, the number as shown by my last report being 11, and that authorised at present being 66. The greatest difficulty is found in keeping up this number, principally owing to their being separated from their families, the number at present on the strength being 57.

Transport Waggons.

The transport capacity of the force has also been increased, and now consists of—

Waggons, 7 tent, 10 half-tent, 5 buck; carts, 3 Scotch, 1 spring; water-carts, 10.

All these are in good repair and fit for immediate service; during the year certain transport has been condemned and sold, being found unserviceable and irreparable.

Horse Strength.

The number of Government horses on the strength of the force on the 14th August 1888 was 196, and since that date 249 have been purchased at an average of about 15*l.* apiece; these purchases were made chiefly (211) on the increased estimate in January last, others out of moneys realised by the sale of cast animals, making a total of 445 horses which have been on the strength during the year.

During the year 50 horses have died from horse sickness, and 17 from other causes; one horse was shot, and two killed owing to accident. The boards assembled to inquire into the deaths of these horses in no case attributed blame on account of negligence or mis-treatment. Twenty-one horses were cast and sold, as being unfit for further service (sales by public auction), and four were

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

stolen by deserters, none recovered. No horses have been lost from the force, making a total decrease of 95, and leaving the strength of horses on 14th August 1889 three hundred and fifty (350).

Horse Sickness.

The greater number of deaths were, of course, from horse sickness, and average about the same as last year, viz., 50 out of 70, as against 63 out of 92, but whereas in 1887–8 the deaths from this cause were about equally proportioned between Bechuanaland and the Protectorate, this year the losses in Bechuanaland have considerably decreased, while those in the Protectorate have been very heavy, 25 horses having died there in October, November, and December (nearly the whole number then employed there). During and immediately after the rainy seasons are the worst months. Mafeking and district have proved to be the most healthy. In the Protectorate the deaths from all causes have been 41 out of 70. The total casualty list compares favourably with last year's, being 95 out of a total strength of 445, as against 122 out of 318.

Various endeavours have been used to try and find either a preventative or cure for this fatal disease, but nothing definite has been arrived at. A form of horse sickness appeared at Taungs during the month of March last, and between the 11th and 17th of that month 14 horses died of it. The first symptom was very heavy breathing, with high fever, usually accompanied by purging, lingering this way for four or five days, scarcely eating anything, and when attempting to drink seemed unable to swallow, the water running out of their nostrils; they died apparently of suffocation.

A post-mortem showed generally only one lung at all affected, the other sometimes very slightly, the bowels congested, and all the other organs perfectly healthy.

Carbolic acid was tried on two horses successfully, both recovering. This form of horse sickness has not appeared before in the corps.

Transport Animals and Casualties.

The mule strength on the 14th August 1888 was 137; no mules have since been purchased or sold; forty-eight (48) casualties have occurred during the year, leaving the present strength 89. The casualties were as follows: 13 transferred to charge of Government Storekeeper, 15 shot on account of farcy, 18 dead from other causes, and 2 lost.

Farcy broke out among the mules at Mafeking in the beginning of February, four being severely attacked; these were shot, and a grazing station at once formed at Middle Maritzani, where the mules could be isolated and kept clear of all passing traffic.

It was, however, found necessary to shoot 11 others, and the station had to be continued till the middle of June before the mules were reported free of the disease and fit for duty. No cases of farcy were reported from other stations. The deaths of the 18 were: 2 from poisoning, 9 horse sickness, and 7 from natural causes (worn out). All mules on the strength have been in the force since its formation, and kept to constant and heavy work.

The bullock strength on the 14th August 1888 was 41. Since then 356 oxen have been purchased (14 during his Honour's visit to the Protectorate in September, and 342 since the augmentation of the force); 41 casualties have occurred, viz., 23 dead and 18 lost, leaving the present strength 356. Deaths have been, three lung sickness, one from an accident, three from poisoning, and 16 from poverty and natural causes, the transport work in the Protectorate having latterly been very severe. Of those reported lost, 11 were on the line of march, five from cattle posts, one through a stampede, and one left on road sick, not recovered.

Sale of cast Animals.

The following amount was realised by the sale of cast horses during the year, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
By sales - - - -	83	2	6
Less commission, &c. - - -	4	11	0
	78	11	6

Equipment, &c.

Owing to the increase in the force and the present expedition to the Protectorate a considerable quantity of field and camp equipment, uniforms, and other quartermaster's stores had to be purchased this year; the corps has also been entirely supplied with new saddlery, gun buckets, &c. These additions have placed the force in a very efficient state, are all in good order, and sufficient to keep the field for some time. The boots received have been of a very poor quality and are not serviceable; communications with the Crown Agents have passed on this subject. All other articles have been of good material.

Forage.

From the time of my last report up to the 1st April 1889, forage and mealies were supplied by a contractor through the Government storekeeper; since that date they have been purchased and supplied by the Government storekeeper direct. No accounts for grain, &c., pass through this office, consequently I

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

am unable to state what sum has been debited to the police vote on the item.

Armament.

The armament of the force at present is as follows:—(i.) Artillery, six 7-pounder M.L. field guns with necessary equipment and ammunition. Up to February last, the distribution of the battery was the same as 1887–88, viz.:—two guns each at Taungs, Vryburg, and Mafeking. At the beginning of that month the Taungs and Vryburg divisions were moved up to Mafeking, and afterwards accompanied the force in its advance up country, being now stationed with the head-quarters at the permanent camp, Elebe River.

A Maxim gun and 20,000 rounds of ammunition was purchased for the force in March, and is, with all ammunition, also stationed at the Elebe Camp.

The battery and the Maxim are in every way in thorough working order and constantly exercised; the guns at Elebe are attached to "F" troop, the non-commissioned officers and men of which troop have been fully instructed in field gun drill. Two gunners, Royal Artillery, specially enrolled, are now in charge of the Maxim.

(ii.) Small arms. The corps is armed with the Martini-Henri rifle, of which there are 437 on charge, there are also 217 Snider rifles, and a few revolvers available for issue.

Bayonets have just been received and are about to be issued to the men.

The rifles are in good repair and fit for service.

The quantity of small arm ammunition on charge (including 300,400 solid-drawn Martini-Henri lately purchased) is distributed as follows:—

In magazine, Mafeking and Bechuanaland	276,600 rds.
In Protectorate - - - -	228,600 „

The ammunition is all in good order.

Special Employment.

During the year men of the force were employed on duties other than police work as follows:—

(1.) Five troopers as escort to the Rev. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner in the Protectorate (noted in last annual report); this escort returned to Mafeking on the 8th January last, the Assistant Commissioner being well satisfied with their services. On the Assistant Commissioner being ordered to Matebeleland in March last, an escort of five (in charge of Corporal Goodall) with transport was again furnished; this party is still in Matebeleland, the latest accounts of it being satisfactory.

(2.) Lance-corporal W. Van Wyk acted as chief constable at Vryburg from 1st to 31st January, from which date, his appointment being confirmed, he was granted his discharge.

(3.) Two troopers have been employed as conductors in the up country postal service since July last.

Police Farms.

The number of farms held by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the police under conditions recommended by the Bechuanaland Land Commission of 1886, was at the date of last report 38; this number has since been reduced to 36; the farms, Nos. 16 and 17, grantee S. E. Phillipson, in the Sehuba division, having been confiscated to the Crown on the 31st October 1888, by order of his Honour the Administrator, owing to the non-fulfilment of the conditions of tenure.

With the exception of the above case, the conditions imposed by the Land Commission have been fairly carried out, the grantees or their substitutes living on the farms and improvements being made. Colonel Sir F. Carrington's report on this subject to his Honour, dated 16th February 1888, still holds good.

The farms are in extent about 1,500 morgen, and have been surveyed; they are situate on the Transvaal and Protectorate borders, and have been inspected by officers of the force at various times during the year, to ensure conditions of tenure being carried out.

The farmers (not being policemen) who, with their horses, are available for military service, are now 32; they have no government arms or saddlery in their possession.

Regimental Works.

In Bechuanaland, beyond keeping the hut and stable accommodation, and the forts at Mafeking, Vryburg, and Taungs, in good repair, no regimental work has been carried out, the alterations and additions mentioned in last year's report being found sufficient and of such good quality that few repairs were necessary.

The mule and ox kraal at Mafeking was destroyed in February on the outbreak of farcy among the mules.

In the Protectorate, Sub-Lieutenant Bruce, with a party of 20 men, left Mafeking on 25th April, for the purpose of sinking wells along the Selina road, water along that route being very scarce. Up to date he has only been fairly successful, but is still working there.

On the movement of the police up country, the first party was under command of Major Goold-Adams; this officer was directed to consult the Chief Khama and with him to select a suitable site for the future police camp; this was done, the Chief proceeding

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

with Major Goold-Adams to Elebe, where the present position was selected.

The first detachment arrived at this station, Elebe River, on the 28th June, and work was at once commenced in erecting huts, stores, and offices, and building a small fort on a commanding position immediately to the north of the camp. The huts, stores, &c., are now nearly completed, some being occupied; the fort is also nearly complete, but being on a stony kopjie has necessitated a great deal of blasting and hard labour. All the proposed works will be completed before the commencement of the rainy season.

The water supply at the present is scarce, and, as in almost all parts of this immediate neighbourhood, it is slightly brack. The River Elebe is about 1¼ miles from the fort, in which at present we obtain drinking and cooking water; the Lotsanie River is about 3 miles to the south-west, and has a good supply of water for horses and cattle. Two wells are being dug close to the fort, one at present about 40 feet, but so far we have not reached water.

Out-stations, Bechuanaland.

Several out-stations have been withdrawn. Those mentioned in last year's report were continued at the same strength till February, when, owing to the small force it was found possible to leave in Bechuanaland, the stations of Langberg, Dry Hartz, Grootchooing, Tweeling's Pan, Massiminyane, Takoon, Morakwen, Eye of Maritzani, and Lower Maritzani were called in. The present out-stations are Kuruman, 5; Schaapfontein, 4; Genesa, 4; Setlagoli, 7; and Pitsanie, 3.

Ramathlabama (2 men) was temporarily used as an intermediate posting station.

All out-stations are visited at least once a month by an officer of the force and inspection reports furnished to the Commanding Officer. Patrol reports and diaries, giving full particulars of work done, are rendered to head-quarters by each non-commissioned officer in charge of a station. These reports are, when practicable, made weekly. Grain and forage returns, showing all receipts and expenditure, are also rendered monthly by each station to the quartermaster.

From personal inspection and the reports rendered, I have reason to consider that the conduct of the various detachments, and the work carried out by them has been satisfactory throughout the year, except in the cases of the Kuruman and Langberg districts, upon which inquiries have been held and reports forwarded to his Honour.

Detachments in Protectorate.

In addition to the head-quarter camp at Elebe River, there have been small detachments stationed at the head places of the

Chiefs Khama (Mangwato), Sechele (Molopolole), and Batwen (Kanya), during the year, as well as the stations of Bains' Drift, and the junction of the Ngatwani and Crocodile Rivers. The detachments at Molopolole and Kanya are still maintained; the Bains' Drift Station was moved to Mangwato in January. On the 3rd June the Mangwato Station was withdrawn, and ordered to meet the main body of the police then moving up country. Owing to their knowledge of the country, most of these men are now stationed along the line of communications.

On the 6th March last, owing to the reports of gun running from the Transvaal, a detachment of three men was stationed at Ramoutsa (Chief Ikaneng), immediately on the border of the Transvaal, and is still maintained there.

On the general advance of the police (commenced 12th May), the following stations were formed or strengthened along the line of communications, and are still maintained. Boulder Pits (about 35 miles from Mafeking), 2 men; Ramoutsa, 4; Lenchwe's, 4; Drie Kopjies (Marico River), 4 men; Junction Ngatwani and Crocodile Rivers, 9; Mahalapsie River, 4; Bath's Station, 4; Selika, 4.

These detachments were originally formed prior to the establishment of a permanent post, for the purpose of forwarding the weekly police post, and keeping up the necessary communication between Elebe and Mafeking.

Three of these I now consider might be done away with or reduced.

I can report favourably of the work done and the discretion shown by the men employed at these stations. The Chief Khama decided to move his town nearer the police, and as soon as the site of the permanent camp was fixed, began the move from Mangwato. His head place is now at a point about 45 miles to the westward of the Elebe Camp.

Stock Reports.

The number of lost or stolen stock reported to the police during the past year was much less than in the year 1887–8, the approximate value being about 1,000*l.* The greater number of these losses were reported from the vicinities of Taungs, Vryburg, or Mafeking, and nearly all were recovered, this diminution in loss showing, I think, increased security both to farmers and natives.

Arrests and Convictions.

During the year 156 arrests have been made by the police, and 84 convictions obtained, the difficulty of obtaining reliable evidence from natives accounting in most cases for the non-conviction of prisoners.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Special Patrols.

On the 20th December Major Goold-Adams proceeded to Kuruman to inquire into the charges made against the police by Mr. Streatfeild, Resident Magistrate, a report on the same being submitted to his Honour in January. At the end of December, Major Goold-Adams, Sub-Lieutenant Bruce, with Troop Sergeant-Majors Bodle, and Beal and Quartermaster-Sergeant Wight proceeded to Kimberley to superintend the recruiting for the force, returning to Mafeking at the end of February on the completion of that duty, a camp of instruction having in the meantime been formed at Taungs.

Owing to the scarcity of water, and the large number of transport animals required, the advance up country had to be carried out by detachments; the first troop, under command of Major Goold-Adams, left Mafeking on the 12th May, the second troop, with the guns under command of Captain Lawrie left on the 18th May; both these troops reached the Elebe camp on the 28th June.

Colonel Sir F. Carrington and escort left Mafeking on 25th June, and the third troop and staff at the beginning of July, the whole force reaching the present camp by the 12th August without accident or impediment.

The general relations between the police and the residents of the South Africa Republic have been friendly throughout the year; the natives both in Bechuanaland and the Protectorate have also shown a favourable disposition towards the police, and their cattle are now grazing in safety along the Transvaal border, and at points in the north-east of the Protectorate where, previous to the police occupation, looting would have been certain.

Patrols and Distances travelled.

Patrol report showing approximately the distances travelled on various duties in the different districts throughout the year is attached.* This includes inspections of various stations.

The number of miles travelled in Bechuanaland was somewhat less than last year owing to the almost entire tranquillity of the country, the smaller number of lost stock reported, and latterly the reduced police force in the country, the distances in the Protectorate being increased.

Medical Officer's Report.

From the report* attached of the medical officer, it appears that during the year 375 cases of illness have occurred, of which number 50 were admitted to hospital, two cases being fatal.

* Not printed.

The usual epidemics have occurred, but not of a serious nature. The general health of the force has been good; there are no men in hospital at present.

The discipline of the force has been generally good throughout the year.

H. GOOLD-ADAMS, Major,
Acting Commandant, Bechuanaland Border Police.

Elebe Camp, Bechuanaland Protectorate,
September 30, 1889.

Enclosure No. 2.

Crown Prosecutor's Office, Vryburg,
October 14, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report for the past year, ending 31st September 1889.

District of Vryburg.

The calendar for this division shows a marked decrease in crime. Stock thefts, the bane of a territory where the majority of its inhabitants are natives, have been conspicuous by their absence. The greater number of cases have been petty in their nature, being chiefly contraventions of the Masters and Servants and Police Offences Acts, and slight assaults.

I am happy to state that the illicit liquor traffic has materially diminished. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that the mere giving of liquor is an offence, and that heavy penalties have been inflicted in cases where the law has been broken.

The power given to courts to forfeit all licenses held by persons convicted acts as a deterrent.

Complaints are constantly made by farmers as to the distance they are obliged to travel in cases where they charge their servants with contraventions of the Masters and Servants Act. I would, therefore, suggest that the appointment of special Justices of the Peace, for the various wards in this division, be taken into consideration.

Grass fires have been frequent in this district as well as in others during the past winter, and have caused considerable damage. These fires have, in many instances, been proved to have originated in Native Reserves, but unfortunately it has been found impossible to detect the offenders.

District of Taungs.

The state of this district, as far as crime is concerned, is most satisfactory.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

The fact that only 28 convictions have taken place, amply testifies to the law-abiding nature of the Batlapins.

District of Mafeking.

The number of criminal cases which have occurred in this district is 108. Of these, a few have been cases of stock thefts; one of murder, in which the accused was sentenced to death, but received a commutation of sentence to 20 years' imprisonment with hard labour; two cases of perjury, two cases of rape, one case of forgery, and eight cases of contraventions of the liquor law, in one of which the Court deprived the accused, the holder of a liquor and trading license, of both these licences, in addition to imposing a heavy fine.

District of Kuruman.

Beyond two serious cases of horse theft, in which seven natives were implicated, crime has been marked by its absence. I, however, fear that stock thefts will be of frequent occurrence, on account of the withdrawal of the police from the Langberg.

District of Gordonia.

As a magistracy has but lately been established in this division, I am unable to report as to the state of crime. I am, however, informed that the inhabitants, Bastards, are a peaceful and industrious people. The facts that two of these Bastards have been appointed special justices of the peace, and that a village board of management, with extensive powers, has been established, are sure proofs of the confidence reposed in them.

I beg again to call his Honour's attention to the absolute necessity of extradition treaties being entered into with the neighbouring Republics.

The anomalous judicial system of five magistrates, possessing jurisdiction in civil suits merely over persons residing within their own districts, and the absence of a superior court of first instance, have been productive of considerable confusion and expense.

I therefore venture to suggest that the time has arrived for the establishment of a superior court of first instance. Were such a court established, I would suggest that the criminal jurisdiction of magistrates be considerably curtailed, and that serious criminal cases be brought before a special court, consisting of the officer presiding over this superior court and two Resident Magistrates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. VINTCENT,
Crown Prosecutor.

The Secretary.

Enclosure No. 3.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

Receiver-General's Office, Vryburg,
November 4, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th September last.

I regret that I have been unable, owing to the non-receipt of the accounts of the Bechuanaland Border Police for September, to frame a comparative statement for the half year. It is not possible for me to receive these accounts, which have to be sent from the furthest point in the Protectorate, till many weeks after the expiration of the period to which they apply, and as I am aware that your Honour cannot delay the transmission of the annual report, I have enclosed statements * showing the receipts and expenditure for the first five months of this financial year as compared with the receipts and expenditure of a like period of the previous year.

The statement of revenue does not at first sight appear of so satisfactory a nature as might be desired, but I venture to hope that, by the close of the financial year, although the estimate under each head will probably not be reached, the total estimated revenue, which is considerably larger than that of last year, will probably be collected.

The sum received for land sales, 1*l.* only, falls far short of the collections under this head during the first five months of last year, but there is reason to believe that large sales will yet be effected, and that the sum estimated, 2,000*l.*, will be reached.

The hut tax receipts show a decrease, and I think the sum estimated was, perhaps, slightly too hopeful, though the receipts under this head will probably not fall short of those of last year.

The receipts for licenses and revenue stamps show a substantial increase, and the sums received during the year should reach the estimated amounts.

The post office receipts were, at the time of the framing of the estimates, considerably on the increase, and it was hoped that this increase would continue, but the receipts, so far, show a decrease on those of a similar period last year, and the sum estimated will not, I fear, be collected.

The telegraph receipts have shown a considerable falling off from the time of the opening of the new Transvaal line, but they are now again increasing gradually; I do not however see how they can now reach the sum estimated, which included the receipts at an office which it was proposed to establish in Kimberley, as well as small receipts from the line which, it was suggested, should be erected to Shoshong, in the Protectorate.

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* Not printed.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

The transfer duty shows a considerably larger sum than was collected during the first five months of last year, and as large tracts of land are now daily changing hands, the sum estimated for the year will, I think, be considerably exceeded.

The increase in miscellaneous receipts is due mainly to the receipts for rebate on railage granted by the Cape Government on goods forwarded over their lines to trans-colonial territories.

The estimated receipts under the head "Protectorate" show every probability of an excess.

An item for the receipts at the new seat of magistracy, Gordonia, was inserted separately in the estimates sent from here, but, in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State, the receipts of that district have been included under the ordinary heads of revenue.

The increase in the receipts for police stores issued on repayment, &c. may be attributed to the increase in the strength of the police force; and the receipts under this head should reach a considerable sum before the end of the year, as an endeavour will be made to dispose of the large stock of reserve supplies now in the hands of the main body of police in the Protectorate, and negotiations are now pending which will result in the sale of, at any rate, a large portion of these stores.

The expenditure for the first five months on the Bechuanaland Border Police appears in the annexed return as 9,512*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, but to this sum must be added 661*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, the expenditure during August on "A" troop, the accounts for which were not received here till the 4th October, when the accounts of the territory for that period had been closed.

The expenditure on the police, so far as the police vote is concerned, appears to be considerably less than that of the first five months last year, but the strength of the force having been materially increased, the actual cost of maintenance is far greater than it was last year, but the major portion of the expense is now charged to the Protectorate vote.

The expenditure on the force has been larger than was apparently anticipated, and an excess on the two votes to which its cost is charged seems now unavoidable. A supplementary estimate, including this item, will shortly be compiled.

The Post and Telegraph Departments have been amalgamated and are this year included in one vote, the expenditure under which shows a considerable increase over the previous cost of these services, but it should be remembered that these departments have been entirely reorganised, and the establishment increased. The salaries of some of the former employées have also been increased since last year.

The cost of conveyance of mails is higher than it was at the commencement of last year, and has now been further increased, which will cause the estimate under this head to be exceeded.

The vote for gaols and constables shows a decrease, and it seems reasonable to expect that there will, at the end of the year, be a saving under this head.

Of the sum of 300*l.* voted for educational purposes, nothing has as yet been spent, as a notification was received, after the passing of the estimates, that this vote should not be encroached upon, pending the receipt of further instructions from the Secretary of State.

The estimate put forward for public works this year was small, no works of any importance, with the exception of the erection of a new telegraph wire from Bank's Drift to Mafeking, being undertaken.

Many of the public buildings have now fallen into bad condition, and urgently require repairs. Additions are needed in many cases, and other public works, such as road making, to which service the Government has, up to the present time, given but meagre assistance, and for which the local bodies have no funds, will, in the interests of the Government, be advisable. It will therefore be necessary to ask for a considerably larger sum under this head during the ensuing year.

The office contingencies vote shows up to the present time an increase over the sum spent in a corresponding period last year, and I think that, owing to the establishment of new offices, and the increasing requirements of the territory, the estimate for this year will be exceeded. The amount included under this head for cablegrams to the Secretary of State has already been exceeded.

The transport vote shows an increase, and I would point out that this expenditure includes the cost of your Honour's visit to the seat of magistracy in the Gordonia District, lately taken over from the Cape Colony.

The survey vote shows a decrease, but the amount estimated for this service for the year will be spent.

The expenditure under the Protectorate vote shows a large increase, due to the cost of maintenance of the larger portion of the Bechuanaland Border Police being now charged to this head.

Financially, the aspect of affairs here during the past year has been fairly good. The country has attracted the attention of the British speculator, and companies which have lately been formed for its development will at any rate, it is hoped, lead to an effectual test of its mineral resources.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. F. HAWTAYNE,
Acting Receiver-General.

His Honour Sir Sidney Shippard, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Enclosure No. 4.

Surveyor-General's Office, Vryburg,
September 14, 1889.

Land Sales.

During the past 12 months there has been little Crown land sold, owing to a restriction on land sales in the eastern portion of the territory, pending the conclusion of arrangements with the promoters of the proposed Bechuanaland railway; and to the fact that farther west the surveyors were not sufficiently advanced. There is, however, reason to believe that the returns under this head, when made up to the end of the current financial year, will be as satisfactory as were the same returns for the year ending 31st March 1889.

Surveys.

The surveys generally have made good progress during the year under review. The trigonometrical survey has been extended since last September, and now embraces all that portion of the Colony lying to the eastward of a line drawn from Pitsani on the Molopo River through Mosita, Klein Chooing, and Motito to Botsetilets, and the final results recorded. Compass surveys of farms for sale have been made in the neighbourhood of Kakole, and between Kuruman and the Langbergen, but the plans showing the work done have not yet been received.

The survey of the police farms in the division of Mafeking is approaching completion, and at the expiration of the term of military tenure, the title deed for each farm will be ready for issue to the original grantee.

The final survey of farms held by virtue of a certificate of ownership, with or without a diagram attached, showing approximately the boundaries of the property, are, as a rule, not effected until the owner applies for it, the Government, however, providing the trigonometrical survey to which the farm can be connected and its boundaries irrevocably fixed. Seventeen farms have thus been surveyed during the year, and, with one exception, the positions of the beacons were not disputed by adjoining owners.

The solitary instance referred to was caused by an adjoining owner objecting to the positions of two beacons claimed by the owner of the farm "De Aar," in the division of Vryburg. The dispute was referred to three commissioners for settlement, who upheld the objection, and, in effect, gave as their decision that a rough subdivision of an original farm by the method of "riding off" was not binding unless all parties interested had agreed in writing to the subdivisional beacons thus placed. This decision was in ac-

cordance with common sense, and seems to have met with general approval.

Legislation.

The provisions of the law for the adjustment of boundary disputes, promulgated in 1886, having been found to be in some respects inconvenient, a new land beacons law was recently brought into force, by which it is hoped that much time and unnecessary expense will be saved to landowners.

Within the year also a proclamation, regulating the tenure upon which native reserves shall be held in British Bechuanaland, has been issued. It enables the Governor to vest in trustees, one of whom may be the native Chief, the legal estate in the land, and provides for the creation of a native reserve fund, to be administered by the trustees, with the approval of the Governor, for the benefit of the resident natives. The conditions of tribal tenure laid down follow, for the most part, the recommendations of the Cape Government Native Laws Commission, whose report is well known throughout South Africa.

Gordonia.

The district called Gordonia, whose southern boundary runs with the Orange River from Kleins to the Great Falls, has recently been brought under the direct administration of the Government of this territory. At Upington, the seat of magistracy, situated on the Orange River, there is a small township, and at Kalcamenas on the north bank of the river, but some distance below Upington, there is a small agricultural community.

The land grants within British Bechuanaland, made by the former local administration, and extending over 2,500 square miles, have been confirmed.

The annual quitrent, redeemable at 20 years' purchase, has been fixed at one penny per 10 morgen, or 21 acres, and the conditions of tenure under which the land was formerly held have been, to a certain extent, relaxed. For instance, the farms as originally granted were not executable for debt, and transfer without the sanction of the local government was forbidden. The change introduced, which permits free transfer, is a benefit to the district.

A portion of the land granted by the former local government extends across the Molapo River. These grants, which lie within the British Protectorate, must remain in abeyance until Her Majesty's sovereignty over the area in question has been proclaimed.

(Signed) A. H. F. DUNCAN,
Surveyor-General.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Enclosure No. 5.

Deeds Registry Office, Vryburg,
October 1, 1889.

During the greatest part of the year the depression in the market for the sale of landed property still continued, the number of deeds registered again falling short of those registered during the previous year.

I am, however, of opinion that matters in general are improving, from the fact that so few mortgages have been passed, which undoubtedly proves that the landed proprietors are recovering from what would appear to have been a state of general depression, though it reduces the departmental revenue under that head considerably, if compared with that of former years.

During the last quarter of the financial year the value of landed property is also steadily increasing, so that with the prospects of a thorough development of the country in all its promising sources, it may fairly be inferred that this country has a good future before it.

The new office and strong-room are completed, which being now attached to the Surveyor-General's office, renders its working more satisfactory and convenient for both these departments; the strong-room also affords more safety for the public documents filed therein.

(Signed) M. C. GENIS,
Registrar of Deeds.

Enclosure No. 6.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND SUPERINTENDENT OF TELEGRAPHS.

Report.

The Post and Telegraph Departments, which had hitherto been worked under separate heads, were amalgamated in May last, when I took over the control of both departments.

The telegraphists at the principal offices were appointed postmasters, and now conduct the business of both branches of the service.

They have adapted themselves to postal work in a very creditable manner.

This arrangement is working very satisfactorily, and is both a convenience to the public and an advantage to the service.

I beg to submit herewith statements * showing the work done by the Post Office Department during the 12 months ended 31st August 1889, and by the Telegraph Department during the 12 months ended 30th September 1889.

Post Offices.

With the exception of the removal of the post office at Vryburg from the court-house building to the telegraph office, there have been no changes under this head during the past year.

There are at present four money order offices and eight postal agencies.

Owing to the increase of postal work at Setlagoli, the question of establishing a money order office at that place is now under consideration.

Conveyance of Mails.

The contractor conveying the mails between Kimberley and Mafeking having given the usual notice, in May last, to terminate the contract, tenders were called for, amongst those tendering being the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, who, in addition to the Kimberley-Mafeking service, submitted a tender for a cart service between Mafeking and Shoshong, in the Protectorate.

This offer of a through service having been strongly recommended by the "Tender Board," the matter has been submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. As the present contract will expire on the 3rd October, the Bechuanaland Exploration Company are meanwhile making temporary arrangements for the conveyance of the mail between Kimberley and Mafeking, pending the decision of Her Majesty's Government.

The mails for Kuruman are now conveyed by native runner from Taung; the service is not a satisfactory one, I regret to say. The weight of mail matter to be conveyed has increased so considerably of late that the runner is often unable to take the whole of the mail, and extra runners have to be employed. The question of establishing a cart service on this route will shortly have to be considered.

Circulation.

Annexed are returns,* showing the number of letters, book packets, and registered letters despatched to the United Kingdom and foreign countries, together with the amount of postage affixed. Also returns showing the number of paid, official, and registered

* Not printed.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

letters, parcels, book packets, &c. received at and despatched from the various post offices in the territory during the past 12 months.

From Appendix No. 1 it will be seen that 5,742 paid letters, 1,631 books, &c., and 162 registered letters, being a total of 7,535 articles, were despatched to the United Kingdom and foreign countries, the total amount of postage affixed being 170*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

Appendix No. 2 shows that 54,242 paid letters, 5,905 official letters, 47 book packets, and 2,774 parcels, being a total of 62,968 articles, were received at the various offices in the territory, and that 43,753 paid letters, 7,689 official letters, 206 book packets, and 715 parcels, being a total of 52,343 articles, were despatched from the same to other South African offices during the past 12 months. This is exclusive of registered letters or foreign parcels. The number of the latter is shown under the heading "Foreign Parcel Post."

Appendix No. 3 shows that 2,679 registered letters were despatched to, and 1,595 received from, the various South African offices during the 12 months.

Foreign Parcels Post.

Appendix No. 4* shows that 75 parcels, valued at 529*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, with postage affixed to the amount of 10*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, were despatched from the various offices in the territory to the United Kingdom during the 12 months, and that 166 parcels, valued at 168*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, with Customs dues, &c., due to the Cape Colony, amounting to 21*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, were received at the various offices from the United Kingdom during the same period.

The contents of the former consisted chiefly of the skins of birds and animals, karosses, feathers, postage stamps, &c., the latter chiefly of wearing apparel, watches, stationery, and garden seeds.

Dead or Returned Letters.

The total number of letters, &c. received into the "Dead Letter Office" during the 12 months are as follows:—802 paid letters, 26 officials, 26 registered letters, and 68 book packets, being a total of 922 articles, which were disposed of as follows:—Returned to the chief offices of other South African States, 344 paid letters, 5 officials, 7 registered, and 55 books; returned to writers, 428 pai letters, 21 officials, 19 registered, and 13 book packets; destroyed, addresses being quite illegible, and no trace of writer given, 30 ordinary paid letters.

* Not printed.

Postage Stamps.

The higher denominations of postage stamps at present in use in the territory having no distinctive colours to denote their respective values, officers dealing with them are constantly liable to mistakes and serious loss.

I have suggested to the Chief Distributor that a new issue be made, and have submitted particulars of the most suitable colours for the stamps of each denomination, so that their respective values may be seen at a glance, and so render any mistake or loss impossible.

Money Orders.

Appendix No. 5* shows the money order transactions in the territory during the past twelve months. 1,549 orders, valued at 5,657*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, were issued at offices in the territory; of this number, 1,396 orders, valued at 5,139*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, were drawn on offices in the Cape Colony. During the same period 352 orders, valued at 1,798*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, were paid at offices in the territory; 214 of these, valued at 1,264*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, having been issued in the Cape Colony.

Postal Drafts.

This branch of the post office business has not found much favour with the public during the past twelve months.

It will be seen from Appendix No. 6* that only five drafts, valued at 18*l.* 17*s.*, were drawn at offices in the territory, and 31 drafts, valued at 119*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, were drawn at offices in the Cape Colony on offices in this territory. Particulars as to how these were disposed of will be found in appendix.

Revenue.

Appendix No. 7* shows the amount collected under the different heads during the past twelve months. Postage stamps, &c. sold, 1,318*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*; unpaid postages and surcharges collected, 29*l.* 5*s.*; private bag rents, 4*l.*; commissions on money orders issued, 110*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*; making a total of 1,452*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*

Protectorate.

There are five postal agencies in the Protectorate at the following places, Kanye, Molepolole, Shoshong, Tati, and Gubuluwayo.

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* Not printed.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

Up to the end of July last the three first named were served from Mafeking, once a week, by native runners, Tati and Gubuluwayo being served from Shoshong once a fortnight.

The main body of the Bechuanaland Border Police having moved up into the Protectorate in May, there was a considerable increase in the weight of the mails to be conveyed, and although the mail was restricted to letters and newspapers only, it was found that the native runners were unequal to the work; they were therefore dispensed with, and a mule cart service was established under the management of the police authorities. This service, I regret to say, ended in a complete failure after two months' trial, owing to some unexplained cause, the breakdown causing considerable delay to the mails, and great inconvenience to the public.

The total weight of mail matter despatched from Mafeking to the Protectorate during the two months cart service amounted to 2,372 lbs., 1,025 lbs. of which was for police alone.

Arrangements are now being made for the mails to be conveyed by native runners as before, the police authorities making their own arrangements for conveyance of police mail.

This arrangement will only be temporary pending the decision of Government with regard to the tender of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, referred to under the heading "Conveyance of Mails."

Should this tender be accepted, I propose to extend the parcels and book post up to Shoshong, and establish money order offices at Molepolole and Shoshong; it will be a great convenience to the public, and a source of revenue to this department.

The correspondence, &c. dealt with at the five postal agencies in the Protectorate during the past twelve months, as shown in Appendix No. 8,* was as follows: received at Protectorate offices, 6,786 paid letters, 419 official letters, 4,776 newspapers, &c., and 124 registered letters; despatched from Protectorate offices, during same period, 6,109 paid letters, 325 official letters, 126 newspapers, and 177 registered letters, making a total of 18,842 articles dealt with.

It will be seen by Appendix No. 9* that postage stamps to the amount of 241*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* were sold, and surcharges and additional postages to the amount of 96*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* were collected, making a total of 338*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* for the twelve months.

Telegraphs.

The telegraph offices of this department are, Mafeking, Setlagoli, Vryburg, Taung, and Wittefontein; the latter, a testing station only, situated within the border of the Cape Colony, has been temporarily closed.

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* Not printed.

The general working of the Telegraph Department has been fairly satisfactory during the past 12 months; some difficulty has been experienced at times in the working of the line between Barkly West and Mafeking, owing to the light strand wire at present in use, it being quite unsuited for permanent telegraph purposes in this country. This was pointed out by my predecessor, Mr. Tillard, some time ago, and provision was made in last year's estimates for the erection of a heavier wire, the material for which arrived from England in August. The work has already been commenced, and I hope to have the new wire completed to Mafeking by the end of October.

The Cape Government, having agreed to take over and maintain the section of line between Barkly West and our border at Banks Drift, will replace the light wire by a heavier one; this they hope to do early in October. As soon as this is completed we will have a sound and reliable line, the benefits of which will be more apparent should the development of trade northwards necessitate telegraphic extension to Matebeleland; this I anticipate will become a necessity in the course of a few months.

I attach a statement, Appendix No. 10,* giving details of the work done by the department during the past year, from which it will be seen that the total cash revenue amounted to 1,919*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; value of Government messages dealt with, 1,314*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; the total number of messages forwarded being 22,479, representing 404,219 words paid, and 247,087 words on Government service; the total number of messages received at offices in the territory during the 12 months being 20,125, representing 621,695 words.

General.

As already pointed out in the first part of my report, the post and telegraph services have hitherto been worked as separate departments, and in the case of the former by officers holding other appointments. I was therefore not surprised to find a great want of system, and an absence of strict control and check in the general working of the department; I have therefore found it necessary to introduce certain reforms, many of which will necessarily have to be gradually worked in as the new system develops, as it is only by a strict system both of control and check that a department of this kind can be successfully worked.

The work of both departments is steadily increasing, and I anticipate a very considerable increase during the next 12 months, as there is every indication of a large influx of people, not only into this territory in connexion with gold discoveries, but into the country northward.

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* Not printed.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

The postmasters of Vryburg and Mafeking are already feeling the pressure of additional work, and I will be compelled shortly to ask for additional assistance for both these offices.

It will also be necessary to make provision for an audit clerk in the chief office, as at present I find some difficulty in keeping up a strict audit of postal and telegraph accounts.

I have only had a short experience of the present staff of the department, since May last, but it gives me great pleasure to be able to testify to their general efficiency and good conduct.

(Signed) J. E. MIDDLETON,
Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

Vryburg,
16th October 1889.

Enclosure No. 7.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NATIVE RESERVES.

Vryburg, October 1, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Honour the Administrator, that during the year ending 30th September 1889 I have collected the amount of twelve hundred and fifty-one pounds sterling (1,251*l.* sterling) on account of hut tax.

Sickness has been very rife among the natives throughout the Province, and numbers have died, especially on the Ganyesa and Morokwen Reserves.

Little or no ploughing has been done during the last season, owing to the want of rain. Grain is therefore very scarce.

The natives generally appear at present to be perfectly satisfied with Government, but I fear that, when their Reserves are surveyed, there will be a great deal of complaining, as they will no doubt be deprived of a quantity of ground that they have been in the habit of using for years.

It is to be regretted that the Reserves were not at first surveyed, and the natives permanently settled before grants of land were made to Europeans.

At present I have had no official intimation of the survey of any of the Reserves, but I believe a few of them have been surveyed.

During the months of May and June I accompanied the Government Surveyor, Mr. W. M. Theal, to the Langberg, in order to point out to him the various villages and cattle posts belonging to the Chief "Toto" and his people.

I believe it is the intention of "Toto" to apply for an allowance, as he knows that the Government will give out portions

of his country to Europeans; and he considers that he is fully entitled to some remuneration.

The withdrawal of the police from the various out-stations has had a bad effect on the native mind, and I am afraid that extensive thefts of stock will take place, unless the country be frequently patrolled and more police stations formed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. QUINTIN,
Inspector of Native Reserves.

Enclosure No. 8.

Government Storekeeper's Office,
Vryburg,
October 23, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in compliance with your request, to submit for the consideration of his Honour the Administrator, the following report on the operations of this department for the past year.

On November 19th, the date of my former report, there was on charge of this department, but chiefly in possession of Officer Commanding the Bechuanaland Border Police, a large quantity of camp equipment and stores, even then considerably depreciated by use and wear.

On these, the officer mentioned found it necessary to have a board of survey, which board finding the articles unfit for active service use, made recommendations as to their disposal. Some were sold by auction, others destroyed, and the whole struck off charge of the force and this department.

An increase of the force having been decided on, it was necessary that immediate preparations for the outfit of this increased number should be made, and accordingly in December requisitions were forwarded to the Imperial Secretary.

The Ordnance Store Department, Cape Town, immediately supplied such stores as they could spare, and the remainder were subsequently supplied through Crown Agents, partly from Ordnance Depôt, Woolwich, and partly from contractors.

To the Crown Agents had been sent requisitions for all the clothing.

Other stores, urgently required at time of enrolment of men at Kimberley, were purchased there; boards being held on all tenders in such cases.

As I suggested in my remarks about transport in former report, it was decided to give the force oxen for transport rather than trust to mules.

This was accordingly done, and 15 waggons were bought, some tent, and some half-tent, with 16 oxen each; to keep up which number some reserve animals were bought.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

The waggons were distributed for service as follows: Officer Commanding, 1; staff, 2; paymaster, 1; hospital, 1; and to the three troops, 10 in all.

Tenders were called for for the supply of grain for the year 1889–1890 in the territory, and the local contracts were put out at 22*s.* 6*d.* per bag of 200 lbs. mealies, and 15*s.* per 100 lbs. of oat-hay at Mafeking, and at 22*s.* 6*d.* and 17*s.* for similar quantities at Taungs.

Well-sinking gear and pumps were supplied to the pioneer party.

The medical officer was well supplied with all hospital necessaries, medicines, &c., and medical comforts.

A large ambulance and tent accommodation were provided him.

All local arrangements for the moving of the force were very quickly made, but the clothing, &c., ordered through Crown Agents in December, did not reach here until early in May.

Fortunately neither life nor prestige were very seriously endangered by this delay so far as I am aware.

The head of this department sat as a member of the board assembled to consider the tenders for supply of horses.

The officer commanding having decided to take all and every item of the reserve stores, arrangements had to be made for the transport, which is a considerable cost, and which was not, so far as I am aware, fully estimated for.

For strong strategical reasons, the present site, Elebe River, in north of the Protectorate, was finally selected as that most suitable for the camp. It is distant, I am informed, 112 miles from Shoshong.

To move all reserves of stores, supplies, and grain to this site has entailed a heavy expenditure, in part not estimated for.

At time of organisation of the force, our relations with natives above Mafeking were rather disturbed, and as the completion of all arrangements was urgently insisted on, after consultation with the Officer Commanding Bechuanaland Border Police, we decided to enter into contracts with traders and merchants of stability, under strict conditions, with penalties for loss or delay, so that the Government has always been thoroughly protected.

The present supply of grain will be nearly sufficient for the present number of animals for the current financial year, but in view of the fact that the natives ploughed so little last year, and stocks are consequently low, as they are everywhere else, it may be found that very high rates will be demanded for any supplies required before the next year's crop comes in.

Before it was intended to move any number of men and horses to north of Protectorate, the daily estimate for horses was 1*s.* 6*d.* per head.

It was pointed out to the Officer Commanding the Bechuanaland Border Police that 2*s.* per diem was the lowest estimate that could be given under the circumstances of such a large

number of animals having to be fed so far from sources of supply of grain.

Under the ordinary conditions of the mealie crop and supply of the Protectorate, 1*s.* 6*d.* would do well, but, as the stocks were to our knowledge so short, the 2*s.* was the only estimate which I could confidently accept the responsibility of not exceeding.

The civil departments have been well supplied with their particular requirements in clothing, stores, and stationery.

The reserve stock of arms has in chief part been sent to the Protectorate on charge of the Officer Commanding Bechuanaland Border Police, who also has all the ammunition of different classes in possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. GOODYEAR,
Government Storekeeper.

The Secretary,
Vryburg.

Enclosure No. 9.

REPORT OF THE MASTER OF THE COURT OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

During the past year there have been no insolvencies in the territory, and 23 estates of deceased persons have been placed in the hands of the Master.

Great difficulty is experienced in getting estates settled up, as in very many cases the surviving relatives and executors have moved into the Transvaal, where they are out of the jurisdiction of the court. The majority of the estates are very small, but it is unsatisfactory being unable to close them.

During the past year Act No. 8, 1888, of the Cape Colony providing for the mutual recognition of letters of administration granted here and in the Cape Colony has been put in force, and if a similar arrangement could be made with the South African Republic, it would be a great advantage to the public and would greatly facilitate the work of this office.

Owing no doubt to the frequent changes that have taken place in the office, the prolonged illness of the late Master, and the consequent pressure of work on all the branches of this establishment, the books have not been kept up as well as could be wished, and the records are in some cases incomplete. This state of things has been rectified as far as possible, and a system inaugurated which will, I have no doubt, keep matters in order for the future. I consider, however, that a safe or strong-room should be provided for keeping the records of the office.

R. TILLARD,
Master.

Vryburg, 4th October 1889.

Enclosure No. 10.

REPORT OF CIVIL COMMISSIONER AND RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, VRYBURG.

As I have only been here about six months, and have been unable to get away to visit the different parts of the district, I am not in a position to report so fully as I could wish. Many parts of the district are so remote and out of contact with the town that the Civil Commissioner can know little about them unless he visits them.

Gold Prospecting.

The principal feature in the past year has been the increase of gold prospecting; there are now several prospecting syndicates and parties in the district, some of whom appear to be assured of success. Zwaartfontein, which is about 4 miles from Vryburg, is thought very highly of by the promoters, and I am informed on good authority has been favourably reported on by an expert. Confidence that payable gold exists and will be found is shown by the fact that all farm property has undoubtedly risen considerably in value during the last six months. In some localities large prices have been given for farms, and there are now several companies and syndicates anxious to buy up land in the territory.

Dry Season.

Last season was comparatively dry, particularly in the early part, and the crops were, therefore, to a great extent a failure. Cattle, however, have done well, though there has been a good deal of lung sickness. Farmers who have a sufficient quantity of stock do well, but unfortunately the greater proportion of them are hampered by want of capital, rendering it impossible for them to farm profitably. There can be no doubt that this is a magnificent pastoral country, and I believe cattle-ranching on a considerable scale would pay well and do much to develop the country. The more I see of the country the more I am convinced that there is plenty of water in almost all localities, if it were properly conserved, and there can be no question that there is abundance of grass. The length of time the "veldt" keeps good up here without rain, and the manner in which the grass grows in spring without rain, is, in my opinion, one of the most remarkable features of the country: it may be said that there has practically been no rain here for the last six months, yet the veldt is pretty good and the grass growing. Where cattle are not overcrowded and can get water they keep in good condition throughout the winter, and as fat cattle are usually very scarce toward the end of winter, a good deal of money is made by people buying

lean cattle and keeping them until the following season. The requirements of Kimberley and the various Gold Fields will no doubt ensure a good market for slaughter cattle for many years to come, and British Bechuanaland seems specially adapted for meeting the demand.

Local Boards.

The Divisional Council and Village Management Board are sadly hampered by want of funds, and are quite unable to put the roads and streets in proper order. This is principally due to the number of unoccupied farms and erven, a state of things which will probably be remedied if payable gold is found in the vicinity.

Vaccination.

I consider that a thorough system of vaccination is required throughout the territory.

Education.

The question of education has, I understand, been considered by Government, and it is to be hoped that something will be done to provide the inhabitants with the means of educating their children.

Railway.

The early construction of the railway is looked forward to with much interest, and, if carried out, will no doubt do much to develop the country.

Crime.

There is very little crime in the district owing, to a great extent, no doubt, to the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to natives, and that there has not been much civil work since I have been here. The ends of justice are, however, not unfrequently defeated by the want of an extradition treaty with the Transvaal, and there being no means of obliging witnesses resident in that state to attend and give evidence.

Revenue.

The revenue has been increasing lately owing, no doubt, to the interest taken in gold prospecting, and I anticipate further augmentation.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Buildings.

The central gaol is a well-built edifice, affording ample accommodation for the requirements of the territory. I do not, however, consider it very secure, as the outside walls should, in my opinion, have been at least 2 feet higher. It is also, I think, to be regretted that the inside walls were built of brick; there is splendid building stone on the spot, and when this is the case it seems a pity to use bricks, which are a constant source of expense. The public offices are fairly commodious and suitable with the exception of the court-room, which is too small, ill-lighted, and badly ventilated. I consider a new court-room is a necessity. A lock-up is also required at the court-house on account of the distance of the gaol from the township.

(Signed) R. TILLARD,
Vryburg, 8th October 1889. C. C.

Enclosure No. 11.

REPORT OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER AND RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, MAFEKING.

SIR, Mafeking, September 30, 1889.

IN compliance with your circular dated the 14th August last, I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ending this day. As, however, my residence here has been of such short duration, I do not propose to express any opinion upon subjects of which I have not as yet had sufficient opportunity of judging, and which, after a larger experience, I might have reason to change.

The health of the town and district has been good, no serious disease of any sort having shown itself; this is latterly greatly the subject for congratulation, as, since the departure of the police with the medical officer up country, there has been no doctor resident here. I trust, however, that the present immunity from sickness will not be the cause of efforts being relaxed to obtain a district surgeon, and I would strongly urge that, for the present, at least, a larger allowance than 100*l.* a year should be offered, as owing to the limited private practice there is not now sufficient inducement to a medical man to settle here. The nearest doctor is at Zeerust, some 40 miles away, and he is, of course, not always available; only a few days back, a young child of one of the leading inhabitants met his death from what is generally thought to be want of medical aid only.

It has been impossible to get residents here to serve on the Village Management Board, and in consequence little has been done to improve the village. Convict labour has, however, been utilised for this purpose as far as possible in repairing the streets, planting

trees, &c., and a dam was built a short way from the town, on the river, which, being of considerable depth, will, I think, always contain water, even in the worst drought.

Considering the large native population, there has been, I think, very little crime during the year, and after my experience in several towns in the Cape Colony, it is very gratifying to note the almost complete absence of drunkenness here; I have not had a single case during the four months I have been here, and on reference to the criminal records I find there have been only two convictions under this head during the whole year.

There have, however, been several cases of illicit liquor traffic, and in two of them trapping had to be resorted to when two members of the loafing fraternity were so engaged, and they were sentenced to the full penalty. Knowing as I do the importance attached to this question of the sale of liquor to natives, I beg to bring to your notice a case (and I believe there are several similar ones which have happened before), in which a firm living near the Transvaal border in this district were convicted of this offence, and were fined and their licenses cancelled. Now the same firm have erected their store a few yards over the border, where the unrestricted sale of liquor can be, and I believe is, carried on. I would, therefore, submit whether it would not be better to increase the present penalty of 50*l.* (without, however, doing away with the power to cancel the licenses when considered expedient). I think this might act as a deterrent, and would not have the effect of driving parties out of the jurisdiction of the magistrates, thereby defeating the object of the law, besides causing a loss of revenue.

The collection of hut tax has not yet commenced, but will be during next month, when I trust, judging by what I have heard, the natives will pay up well.

I am glad to be able to report that my relations with the Chief Montsioa have been all that could be desired, and he, together with most of the minor Chiefs, appears anxious to render any assistance possible, and I can see no reason why diplomatic matters should not be satisfactory in the future.

The rains not having set in yet, and very little ploughing having been done, it is not possible to give any idea of harvest prospects, but it is to be hoped that the natives will be afforded the opportunity of sowing largely this year, which they were prevented from doing last year by the drought; in the meantime they have been living on their reserve supplies. They do not, however, appear to be in any want, as it is just as difficult now to procure labour as I understand it has always been; those who do work appear only to do so with the object of procuring some article of clothing, and their period of service rarely extends over two months; possibly, should the country become more thickly populated, and the natives come more in contact with a working class, they may be induced by example to exercise a little energy, a quality which they now appear to be quite deficient in.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

Prospecting is being carried on to some extent in the district, notably in the neighbourhood of Setlagoli, about 40 miles from here, and a declaration of the discovery of payable gold there has been made; as yet there has been no analysis of the quartz by any one on behalf of the Government, so at present the value or otherwise of the discovery is undecided.

The departure of the Bechuanaland police for up country has naturally caused a reduction in the local business, but I think I can safely assert that trade is steadily increasing; two firms have found it necessary to provide increased accommodation for their goods, and as an indication of the trade done here, I may state that during the year over 15,000 packages have been checked by the Rebate Officer, and there would be of course a very large quantity of other goods which would not come under his notice.

For the reason stated at the beginning of this report, I am unable to make any further comparison as to the progress of the district, but trust that next year I shall be able to go into the subject more fully and to report favourably.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. HATCHARD.

Enclosure No. 12.

REPORT OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER AND RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, TAUNGS.

Taungs, October 9, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of his Honour the Administrator as to the work done in, and the condition of, the district of Taungs during the twelve months ending the 30th September 1889, as follows:—

Administration of Justice.

I am happy to be able to report that there has been very little crime in this district, and nothing of a serious nature. There have been 48 persons charged, of which 28 were convicted, and 20 discharged. Of the convictions one was a European for the theft of money and a horse, one case of a native cattle theft, and one the theft of a horse in the Colony which was brought into Bechuanaland by a Colonial Kaffir; the remaining convictions were only for petty offences. The chiefs try cases between the natives of their own tribe; there have only been two appeals against their decisions, one against Mankoroane's, and one against Botlasetsie's; in both cases the chiefs' judgments were upheld. There have been only 25 civil cases.

Revenue.

In the revenue I am disappointed at the amount I have collected for hut tax last year. I had hoped from the increase there was the year before from the previous one, and from the natives becoming more used to paying the tax, there would have been again an increase, instead of being 43*l.* 10*s.* less than the previous year. I received cordial assistance from the Chief Mankoroane and his head men. The above deficiency occurs in the portions of the tribe under Botlasetsie and Kantlapane; many of the latter's people are living in the Transvaal on farms of Mr. Daly, who treats them well, and where the grazing is better than in the Reserve. Botlasetsie's excuse is that now the farmers in his neighbourhood have occupied their farms, his people find they have lost ground they thought was their veldt, on which their cattle have been reared and accustomed to run, therefore they stray on to the farms, when the farmers seize them, and charge for trespass, which they have to pay to release their cattle with money they had saved to pay their hut tax; they also had to club their money together to help their friends to release cattle; also now his people have to work for farmers in the Transvaal or Free State to earn money, which takes them longer and they are not so certain of their pay as when they worked at the diamond fields; but they do not now, with the compound system, like working there; that they would sooner go to prison than into a compound, where they are beaten, knocked about, and worse treated by the white overseers than they are in prison. There is a deficiency on my last year's estimate in the sale of revenue stamps and fines, owing to the few civil cases and absence of crime in the district. There is an increase of 100*l.* in transfer duty on farms sold in this district, although received by the Civil Commissioner, Vryburg, for the convenience of the public.

Sanitary Condition.

There is no improvement in the natives' sanitary arrangements, and I fear it will take years before they can be taught to take any steps towards the sanitary improvement of their villages, on account of deeply rooted prejudices of theirs which will have to be overcome. There has been a deal of diphtheria during the year among the Europeans in this village, on the farms, and [among ?] the natives in this district.

Roads.

The road from Taungs to Vryburg viâ Pudumo, which was repaired between here and Pudumo in 1888, is in fair order; the other road to Vryburg viâ the Dry Hartz has had nothing done

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

to it since the Bechuanaland expedition. The drifts are bad, but I do not recommend any outlay on this road, as in wet weather it would never stand heavy traffic; besides as it runs through the natives' gardens there would be constant friction between them and conductors of waggons, for the trespassing of cattle into the gardens, even if they did not drive their waggons through gardens where the land might be firmer than the road, as was done by waggon drivers during the expedition.

Divisional Council.

I have been unable to get a divisional council in this district. The farmers are adverse to it at present; as a divisional council valuation could only be made at the average prices farms have been sold at, which would be very low, it would probably have an injurious influence on the sale of farms, for which during the last two months purchasers have been inquiring after, and prices are showing an upward tendency; besides about half the district is native reserve, consequently as the rates fall on the farms only, even to find funds for office expenses and staff of a divisional council would necessitate a very heavy rate in the pound at the value farms at present would be assessed at.

Condition of Natives.

I am happy to be able to report that the condition of the natives in this district has improved most wonderfully since the country has been taken over by the present Government. When I came here five years ago it was pitiable to see the destitution especially among the children; now there is a general look of prosperity among them, and an object of poverty is rarely to be seen; take them as a body, the natives are better off and more independent than English working men at home. There is no doubt the Chiefs and headmen would be glad to be rid of us, as they find their power and influence is gradually leaving them; they are very adverse to the making a railway or to any gold being found in their reserve as they fear a large white population and that they would be pressed out of the country; but I believe if the bulk of the natives were away from the influence of the Chiefs they would acknowledge they were satisfied and happy. Last year on account of the drought there was no ploughing, but fortunately the previous season was so good that, although they sold a large quantity of grain, their stock has lasted until now; if we have another dry season I fear there will be some hardship. They are making preparations to commence ploughing directly there is any rain. Their cattle do not look well, as the veldt is overstocked, and I fear year by year it will be more so on account of increase of stock. I trust if the railway is made through the reserve, there will be a considerable increase here of reliable policemen, not only to prevent the natives opposing the work but to protect them,

especially the women, from the interference of the navvies who, away from their work, are under no discipline.

Transvaal Border.

I have received no complaints from our natives of ill-treatment by Transvaal Boers this past year; in a few instances when they had not paid wages to our natives who had been working in the Transvaal, on reference to Mr. Van Niekerk, he has kindly procured them justice.

Public Buildings.

The present buildings of the gaol are in good order, but to complete the gaol an outlay of about 50*l.* is required to build a small guard room, store room, latrine, and cook-house; I have recommended an outlay of 15*l.* on the telegraph office for pointing or plastering and other repairs, although, I presume, it is not under my charge, for I consider it is essential for the safety of the court-house it should be done at once; the mud the bricks were laid in is washed out. I recommended this work last year; if it is not done very shortly the telegraph office will fall and would carry away one side wall of the court-house; I may have underestimated this work as I have not taken any opinion of the work that, on examination, may be necessary, as the walls are cracked in several places. I have also estimated 50*l.* for the court-house, 10*l.* for ordinary repairs as there are several leakages, and 40*l.* for a boarded floor in my and my clerk's offices as the present mud and cow dung ones are very bad.

In conclusion I beg to bring to his Honour's notice the good conduct of the Bechuanaland Border Police stationed at Taungs and Phokwane, and the cordial assistance I have received from them, especially Corporal Taylor, in charge of the police at Phokwane, where he has charge of a post, away from supervision, and one of responsibility in having to work with the Chief, which he does most satisfactorily, and that Botlasitsie and his people have great confidence in Corporal Taylor, to whom they constantly go to for advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY LOWE,
Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

Enclosure No. 13.

REPORT OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER AND RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, KURUMAN.

IN accordance with your instructions, I beg herewith to forward my annual report.

As this district is principally occupied by natives, viz., Batlapins, Bechuanas, and Batlaros, they will consequently figure as the chief subject of my report. That there is great room for improvement by them, I think nobody will deny, still I must say I am pleased to state that during the six months of my administration, I have had very few criminal cases to deal, as actually committed by residents, natives of this district. This must be attributed to a great extent to the influence of missionaries who have been labouring amongst them for very many years, and also, in my opinion, through having no licensed liquor places in this district, although I have it on good authority that six out of every seven native waggons going to Kimberley bring up liquor from there; still I must admit that not a single case of drunkenness has as yet come under my notice.

I earnestly hope, however, that until there is an actual necessity no liquor license will be granted in this district.

There are about 20,000 natives scattered over a large tract of country, some over a hundred miles from the seat of magistracy; there are some still who, I believe, have never yet seen a white man, or if they have it is but seldom that they see one.

At present there is only one chief in the district, viz., Toto, chief of the Batlaros, all the other locations are simply represented by headmen, who is either the wealthiest, or through custom has become the chief, man of the place. In many instances these headmen exercise a pernicious influence over the men at their station. As a rule they pick out the best garden lands for themselves and their friends, so as to keep the men under them as poor as possible, and thereby have a larger amount of influence over them. I have continual complaints from natives about this matter, complaining about having no garden plot, whilst, perhaps, large pieces of land are lying uncultivated, the owner not cultivating it himself, nor wishing that anybody else should do so. It will, I think, be a great boon to many of the inhabitants in this district when Proclamation 62 B.B. can be put in force; no doubt there will be some opposition on the part of some of the old men, but in time they will have to give way to the general good.

With regard to the immorality of the natives I can say very little; whether they are so or not, I cannot say, but nothing I have seen as yet would justify me in saying they are immoral.

The "Bayale" circumcision custom seems still to prevail amongst the heathen class of the community. I had a case before me, in which it was alleged that a native had persuaded a young girl to be circumcised, against the will of her parents; this

case, I am glad to say, was not proved, and the charge fell through.

I had occasion lately to visit the Langberg, distant about 100 miles from Kuruman. I visited the chief Toto, and about a dozen other stations; everywhere I was received with the greatest good-will and professed loyalty to the Government. The country itself is one of the finest in Bechuanaland, and for the grazing of stock along the border of Griqualand West cannot be surpassed; the only drawback is again the scarcity of water, but which can be readily found by digging almost anywhere, and not at a very great depth.

The farms on the Griqualand West border are at present being surveyed, as farms there appear to be in great requisition; this will, no doubt, soon largely augment the revenue.

In this district we have one of the finest forests in Bechuanaland, viz., the "Katoo Bush," which is about four miles long and six in width. I would strongly recommend that some respectable native be appointed to look after it at a small salary, as part of this valuable forest is almost yearly damaged through grass fires, and if preserved, would in time to come be of immense value to the district. The dry wood alone would at present be a small fortune to a man to clear. With the outlying portion of the district towards the west, I have hardly any communication at present, and would point out that I consider it highly desirable that some fixed allowance should be made to the Resident Magistrate, to enable him occasionally to visit these outlying stations.

Through the dryness of the last season, the harvest of crops has been rather poor; numbers of natives have therefore gone to the diamond fields to earn a living. I am told by an old resident of the place that not for the last 17 years have the natives been so anxious to manure their lands and cultivate them; no doubt last season has taught them a lesson again.

Prospecting for gold is still going on in this district; good results are anticipated.

A monthly paper in the Sechuana language has been started by the London Missionary Society of this place: as this paper has a large circulation amongst the natives, the subscription being only 2*s.* 6*d.* per annum, I apprehend very good results may be anticipated.

The European population at present is very small, but, as I remarked before, on completion of the survey of the border farms, it is expected that most of these farms will at once be occupied by Europeans. Grass fires, I am sorry to say, are still very prevalent; the native as a rule will not believe that they act detrimentally to the veldt. Lung sickness I hear very little of in this district.

The mails are at present conveyed from Taungs (a distance of 90 miles) to Kuruman on horseback by a native. I would, however, point out that some other arrangements will soon have to be made, as the weight of the mails appears to be increasing daily.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

At present, we have two schools, one conducted by one of the missionaries for natives, and one by a lady for European children. In the country at several stations native students educated at Kuruman teach the children. The public offices and gaol, I am pleased to state, are still in good order, although some additions will soon have to be made for additional security.

On the whole, I think the district is in a very satisfactory state. Very few crimes have been committed, the natives are quiet and peaceful, and should gold be found in payable quantities will be the means of giving them employment and of bettering themselves.

Kuruman, (Signed) C. B. SCHOLTZ.
September 30, 1889.

Enclosure No. 14.

REPORT OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER AND RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, GORDONIA.

1. Since the 1st of April last a British official has been appointed to this district, which previously was known as the "Settlement of Gordonia," founded by Mr. J. H. Scott, late Special Commissioner of the Northern Border of the Colony, under the auspices of the Cape Colonial Government.

Great honour is due to Mr. Scott for his able administration under trying circumstances, and it may be ascribed to his careful management that peace was preserved with the natives around the settlement without a police force; and having always fostered a feeling of dependence on the Colonial Government, he paved the way for the introduction, without any difficulty, of British laws and Government. By kindness and evident interest for the future welfare and prosperity of this district, his Honour the Administrator of British Bechuanaland prevented any show of irritation which may have been felt by people accustomed to self-government.

2. There has been little or no crime here during the past half year, contraventions of Master and Servants Act being the only causes of complaint. On account of the severe drought in the northern districts of the Cape Colony, we may probably expect more stock thefts than usual.

3. Frequent deaths have occurred in the early part of the year, caused by diphtheria, which has been raging in various parts of the Colony.

A disease peculiar to this district is a malarial fever, known here as river fever, which causes general debility of the constitution and binds the patient to his bed sometimes for months, but seldom proves fatal. In the absence of a medical man (whose want is sometimes keenly felt), I am not in a position to say any-

thing about contagious diseases. Our climate is very salubrious and the general health of the inhabitants of this district good.

4. The very great majority of the inhabitants are poor, and exist by agriculture and stock farming. At Upington about 1,800 bags of wheat were reaped last year, and the quantity is steadily increased year by year as the ground is cleared and levelled. In the whole district the last harvest may be estimated at 4,000 bags of wheat and 2,000 of mealies, reared with water taken out of the Orange River by furrows, and I may mention that in this district special facilities exist for leading the water out of the Orange River for purposes of irrigation, by which the quantity of wheat may be increased eight or ten times, but the capital required for these works cannot be raised here.

The stockfarmer also has to cope with many difficulties, of which drought is the most serious.

Another drawback to the prosperity of this district are the bad and heavy roads, which deter speculators to come here for slaughter sheep and cattle, as long as they are obtainable elsewhere and nearer to the market.

Some prospecting for minerals is now going on on various farms, but until now without any encouragement as to eventual success.

(Signed) C. BAM.

Upington,
September 13, 1889.

Enclosure No. 15.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SURGEON OF VRYBURG.

Vryburg, October 30, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Honour the Administrator, that during the past 12 months disease has been prevalent in the district, chiefly at the large native locations. Measles, diphtheria, and low fever caused a high mortality at the native locations of Morokwen and Taungs.

Owing to superstition, it is at present impossible to check the spread of these diseases, as they refuse to take suitable medicines.

At Genesa low fever and diphtheria caused a very slight mortality, due to their compliance to medical treatment. These epidemics were undoubtedly caused by the intense heat, coupled with contamination of the water pits by the cattle. Diphtheria proved very fatal on the farms along the border, and was produced by the same conditions. These are the epidemic diseases which occurred in the district.

The township of Vryburg is in a good sanitary condition, and the water supply is good in quality. The health of the prisoners since their removal to the new central gaol has been excellent.

BRITISH BECHUANA-LAND.

During the past 12 months, only seven cases of illness occurred and these were all of a trivial nature.

During the hot weather I had a supply of lime juice issued, and I have varied the European prisoners' diet by giving mutton on alternate days.

The cells and yards are kept in good order, and the hospital is very satisfactory.

The prisoners' cells are too dark, and do not get properly warmed during the day.

I recommend that two windows be supplied to each. A plank bed would be beneficial, as the cement floors are too cold.

One case of leprosy was admitted, which proved fatal.

I recommend that the natives at the township location be vaccinated. It is also desirable that the natives in the large district locations should be vaccinated; in case of an outbreak of small-pox the death rate would be very high.

One case of leprosy is isolated in the district.

(Signed) WILSON M. NUGENT,
District Surgeon.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

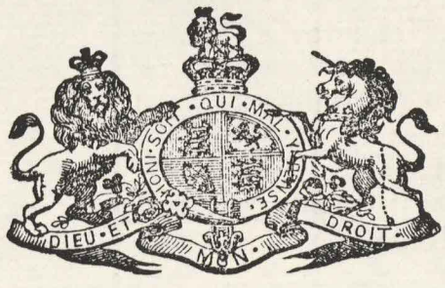
No. 92.

BERMUDA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 50.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.–22.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
43	Victoria	1887
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,

No. 92.

BERMUDA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 50.]

Governor NEWDEGATE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Bermuda, April 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889, together with the report of Mr. Alison, the Colonial Secretary, thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. N. NEWDEGATE, Lieut.-General,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Downing Street.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hamilton,
SIR, Bermuda, March 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1889 :—

Finance.

2. The revenue from all sources in 1889 was 29,938*l.*, compared with 29,372*l.* in 1888, and the expenditure was 30,090*l.* compared with 30,147*l.* in the preceding year. The revenue therefore shows an increase of 566*l.*, and the expenditure a decrease of 57*l.*

3. The following tables compare the revenue and expenditure for 1889 with that of 1888:—

Revenue.

——	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888 - - - -	24,806	4,566	29,372
1889 - - - -	23,017	6,921	29,938
Increase - - -	—	2,355	566
Decrease - - -	1,789	—	—

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Expenditure.

	Salaries.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888 - - - -	10,085	20,062	30,147
1889 - - - -	9,918	20,172	30,090
Increase - - -	—	110	—
Decrease - - -	167	—	57

The revenue returns are not as satisfactory as at first sight they appear to be, for though there is an increase compared with 1888, this is due to the fact that the Savings Bank Trustees paid into the Colonial Treasury under the provisions of "The Savings Bank Act, 1889," over 1,800*l.*, being the excess of the assets of the bank over the liabilities, arising from the system heretofore in force of paying the expenses of the bank directly out of the treasury, and allowing the Savings Bank funds invested in consols to accumulate.

If this amount be excluded it will be seen that the revenue derived from the ordinary sources shows a falling off compared with the preceding year of over 1,200*l.*

The unremunerative prices obtained last season in the New York market for the potato and onion crops seriously affected the agricultural interests in these islands; it was therefore to be expected that the revenue would show a considerable decrease. As the expenditure, however, included a repayment of 1,300*l.* of public debt, it will be seen that the revenue derived from the ordinary sources was nearly—and, but for the exceptionally heavy expenditure incurred under the heading of "Administration of Justice," would have been—sufficient to meet the liabilities actually incurred during the year.

The receipts from the Customs show a decrease under nearly every heading, the decrease in the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duties amounting to 1,200*l.*, whilst the duties on rum, spirits, and wine show a decrease of 355*l.*, 121*l.*, and 187*l.* respectively. The ordinary miscellaneous receipts, however, show an increase, the increase in the receipts from the Post Office amounting to 310*l.*

Compared with 1888 the following differences are shown in the disbursements:—

	£
Administration of Justice an increase of -	1,080
Annuities - - - - -	255
Gaols - - - - -	480
Post Office - - - -	833
Whilst in Salaries there was a decrease of -	156
Educational - - - -	127

	£
Miscellaneous expenditure - - -	1,143
Roads - - - - -	658
Works and buildings - - -	580
Library - - - - -	200

The increase under the heading of "Administration of Justice" is due to the holding of two special sessions of the Court of Assize; under "Post Office" to the additional subsidy granted for conveyance of mails to Halifax and the West Indies; under "Gaols" to the increase of the number of prisoners.

4. The Imperial expenditure returns are as follows:—

	£
Governor's salary - - -	2,199
Military establishments - - -	89,100

Compared with the preceding year the latter return shows a decrease of 4,349*l.*

The expenditure of the naval establishment is not returned.

Public Debt.

5 The public debt at the end of 1889 amounted to 7,200*l.* made up as follows:—

	£
Causeway debentures - - -	1,620
New Government House debentures -	5,600

The average rate of interest on these loans is 4½ per cent.

Legislation.

6. There were 30 Acts passed in 1889 by the Colonial Legislature which sat from May 27th to October 4th.

Of these 13 were merely continuing Acts, and two continuing Acts with unimportant amendments. Of the remainder the following were the most important:—

(No. 6.) "An Act to amend and continue an Act establishing a Board of Agriculture."

(No. 17.) "An Act to prevent the use of fraudulent marks on merchandise."

(No. 20.) "An Act to aid in the erection of a bridge between Somerset and Watford Islands."

(No. 22.) "The Savings Bank Act, 1889."

(No. 25.) "An Act to continue and amend the Board of Works Act, 1880."

(No 27.) "An Act to authorise the establishment of a Parcel Post between these islands and the United Kingdom."

BERMUDA.

By Act No. 6 the grant to the Board of Agriculture is increased from 100*l.* to 300*l.* per annum, and the Board is empowered to import live stock and aid in the holding of agricultural exhibitions. Act No. 17 is to a great extent a rescript of the Imperial Act to prevent the fraudulent use of trade marks on merchandise. Act No. 20 authorises a payment of 2,000*l.* from the Colonial Treasury towards the cost of a bridge which the Imperial Government proposed to erect between Somerset and Watford Islands in order to connect the naval and military establishments at Boaz and Ireland Islands with the main islands, which are already connected with one another by bridges and causeways. Act No. 22, besides authorising the payment into the public Treasury of the excess of the assets of the savings bank over its liabilities already referred to, provides that in future the assets of the bank shall be adjusted annually. Under the provisions of Act No. 25 the number of members of the Board of Public Works is reduced, and the Governor is no longer ex officio President of the Board.

During the session 12 resolves were passed appropriating 5,589*l.* for services not otherwise provided for by law.

Councils and Assembly.

7. The Hon. Eugenius Harvey, who held a seat in the Executive and Legislative Councils from 1886 to 1887 when the councils were separated, and who was reappointed a member of the Legislative Council in the latter year, died at the commencement of the year.

Mr. Daniel Trimingham was elected a member of the House of Assembly for Devonshire parish in the room of Mr. H. I. Wallington, deceased.

Colonial Civil Service.

8. The following changes in the Colonial establishment took place during the year :—

Under the provisions of Act No. 25 of 1889, referred to above, the Board of Works constituted under Act No. 15 of 1880, was dissolved, and a new Board constituted, composed of the following members :—The Hon. W. H. Wilkinson (Chairman), the Hon. James Tucker, C.M.G., Mr. C. Peniston, M.C.P., Mr. T. J. Wadson, M.C.P., Major J. Matheson, R.E., Mr. R. D. Darrell, and W. A. Barr.

Mr. Daniel E. Seon was appointed on the 1st of January clerk to the House of Assembly and prothonotary of the Court of General Assize in the room of Mr. W. H. Darrell, who retired on a pension granted him by Act of the Legislature, equal to full salary of the two offices, after having been in the service of the Colony for over 48 years, Mr. Darrell having been appointed to the office of clerk to the Assembly in 1840 and prothonotary three years later.

Mr. A. C. C. Jones was appointed in August clerk to the Colonial Postmaster in the room of Mr. A. W. Pitt resigned.

Mr. N. W. Hutchings was appointed in May official Marine Surveyor in the room of Mr. H. J. Watlington deceased; and Surgeon-Major W. B. Miller, Army Medical Staff, was appointed in October Health Officer at St. George's, in the room of Surgeon-Major J. S. McCutchan resigned.

Consuls.

9. Mr. C. M. Allen, United States Consul, having died in December 1888, Mr. H. W. Beckwith was appointed to succeed him, and was provisionally recognised in February. The exequatur empowering him to act received Her Majesty's signature on the 1st of April.

Imports.

10. The total value of the imports in 1889 was 272,603*l.*, showing a falling off compared with 1888 of 27,387*l.*, but an increase compared with 1887 of 7,683*l.*

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1888 and 1889 is shown in the following table :—

	1888.	1889.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	82,985	70,490
British Colonies - - -	22,786	21,806
United States of America - -	193,811	179,920
Germany - - - -	408	387
Totals - - - -	299,990	272,603

Exports.

11. The value of the exports amounted to 64,976*l.* against 99,650*l.* in the previous year and 88,921*l.* in 1887. The exports to the United Kingdom were valued at 2,317*l.*, to the British Colonies 1,487*l.*, to the United States of America 59,770*l.*, and to other foreign countries at 614*l.*

The exports from these islands consist almost entirely of fresh vegetables grown for the New York market, high prices for which are generally obtained, as they are usually brought into that market considerably earlier than the home-grown produce. Owing, however, to the mildness of the weather in the spring of the year in the United States and to the opening up of railroads to Florida and the other southern States, exceptional facilities were offered

BERMUDA.

to, and taken advantage of by, the American farmers for placing their produce earlier in the market, the result being that unremunerative prices were realised for last season's Bermuda crops. Indeed, so low were the prices obtained that it is more than doubtful whether they were sufficient even to cover the expenses of raising the crop and putting it in the market.

The only other articles of any importance exported during the year were lily bulbs, valued at over 3,600*l.*, and arrowroot, principally for the London market, valued at over 1,500*l.*

Population and Public Health.

12. The Registrar-General estimated the civilian population of these islands at the end of 1889 at 15,743, comprising 6,243, white and 9,500 coloured persons.

The increase to the population during the year was 209. The birth rate was 33·98, and the death rate 18·86 per 1,000.

Taken as a whole the general health of the community was very good; but the infant mortality was high, the proportion of deaths of infants in the first year of life to registered births being last year 160 deaths to 1,000 births. This is an improvement, however, on former years: in 1888 the proportion was 225 to 1,000. With the exception of measles and whooping cough, which were prevalent in different parts of the Colony, the latter disease causing three deaths, there were no diseases of an epidemic nature amongst the civilian population.

The Principal Medical Officer of the military forces in the command reports that the general health of the troops has been exceptionally good. The epidemic of enteric fever which prevailed during the last three months of 1888 continued during January 1889, and ended about the second week in February, causing five deaths during these two months.

The average strength of men was 1,320, admissions to hospital 534, ratio of admissions per 1,000 of strength 404·54; this ratio is 281·89 less than in 1888, and 404·36 less than in 1887. Deaths seven, or a proportion of 5·3 per 1,000. Six deaths were due to enteric fever; the other death occurred suddenly in barracks from disease of the heart. Average daily sick, 31·80; average strength of officers, 59, no deaths; average strength of women, 90, one death; average strength of children, 143, three deaths.

The Principal Naval Medical Officer reports that the health of Ireland Island has been exceedingly good during the past year, and no disease of an epidemic nature occurred either among the residents or in the ships of the squadron during their stay at Bermuda. The daily strength of the Naval Forces at Bermuda corrected for time was 1,515; this includes 365 dockyard men and 281 men borne on the books of H.M.S. "Terror," and is 204 more than it was last year. This increase is due to the unusually long stay of the fleet at Bermuda during the first six months of the year.

Eight hundred and four patients were under treatment during the year, of whom seven died. The average number of women and children resident on the island has been about 300, a considerable increase over former years. Their general health has been fairly good during the year, and up to the present time the epidemic of whooping cough prevalent in the other islands has not reached Ireland Island. Two children died, one aged 15 months, of enteritis, and one, aged two years, of convulsions.

Criminal Statistics.

13. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year was 500, showing a decrease of 25, compared with the previous year.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 475, of whom 274 were summarily convicted, 71 discharged, 110 acquitted, and 20 committed for trial in the superior courts.

Thirty cases were tried in the superior courts during the year. The number of convictions was 21 ; of these one was for attempt at murder, two for rape, one for robbery with violence, three for other offences against the person, one for prædial larceny, and 13 for other offences against property.

Gaols and Prisoners.

14. There were 145 persons, of whom 14 were women, committed to gaol during the year ; of these 62 were committed for safe custody, 82 for penal imprisonment, and one for breach of order of court to pay judgment debt. Eleven prisoners had been committed once previously, eight twice, and 21 thrice or more.

The daily average number in prison was 25 ; the daily average on the sick list, two.

There were no deaths.

The total cost of the two prisons at Hamilton and St. George, including salaries, was 1,283*l.* The prisoners are employed in breaking stone for the public roads.

Lunatic Asylum.

15. Five male patients were admitted into the Lunatic Asylum during the year, and the same number were discharged. There was one death, a female aged 67, from apoplexy.

The cost of the establishment, including salaries, dieting of inmates and attendants, repairs and renewal of furniture, and other incidental expenses amounted to 1,277*l.* The approximate cost of maintenance of each patient for the year was 35*l.* 8*s.*, and the weekly expense of dieting 5*s.* 8*d.*

BERMUDA.

Education.

16. The Inspector of Schools gives the following returns:—24 aided schools; 1,208 scholars, of whom 635 are boys and 573 girls. School fees 725*l.*, Government contributions 1,207*l.* Of the 24 schools, 16 are attended by coloured children and conducted by coloured teachers, and eight are attended by whites and conducted by white teachers, three of whom are English trained. The average attendance at these schools for the past year is 67·3 of the total number, a falling away of 5 per cent. from the numbers of former years, owing to the failure of the crops and the prevalence of whooping cough. No returns are made from the private schools.

Meteorological.

17. The mean temperature for the year as taken at the Government buildings, Hamilton, was 73·7°. The hottest month was August, with a mean of 82°; the coolest February, with a mean of 64·6°; 64·73 inches of rain fell at Hamilton, which is only a few feet above the sea level, during the year, being 7·4 inches in excess of what fell in the previous year. The maximum fall for one day was on the 17th April, when 5·66 inches were registered. The heaviest monthly fall was in May, when 11·39 inches were registered, and the least, November with a rainfall of only 1·34 inches.

At Prospect Camp, which is about a mile from Hamilton and 151 feet above the sea level, the rainfall during the year exceeded that at Hamilton by nearly five inches. Hail fell on the 10th March.

The register of the wind direction shows that the prevailing winds in summer were south and south-westerly, in winter north and north-westerly. Barometrical readings, mean 30·076. On the 4th of October 97·5 miles was registered at the Military Observatory at Prospect Camp as the velocity of the wind in two hours from 9 to 11 p.m., and there was also a gale on the 4th December.

Government Houses.

18. The Government House at Mount Langton is an old building in bad condition, involving, on account of dry rot in some of the woodwork and leakage in the roof, constant expense in repairs. A new house has been built and most of the woodwork provided. A sum of 623*l.* was granted last session for completing a portion of the work, but it is estimated that nearly 4,000*l.* more will be required to finish the building.

General.

19. Mr. William Cox, who has as usual kindly supplied me with information for the Blue Book relating to agriculture, states, in some notes he has furnished me, that the sum realised for agricultural exports, which for the last 10 years averaged annually over 5*l.* 10*s.* per head of the population, was this year, owing to the small prices obtained in the New York market, only about 3*l.* 10*s.* per head.

This fall in prices has affected not only the agricultural classes, but also the local merchants, whose profits, it is to be feared, in the great majority of cases, exist only on paper.

The rate of wages has, however, remained unchanged, and there was always employment open to any man who was able and willing to work.

Fortunately the Colony is not entirely dependent on the products of the soil as is, I believe, the case with most of the smaller West Indian Islands. The Naval and Military establishments annually put large sums of money in circulation, a considerable portion of which either directly or indirectly finds its way into Colonial pockets; and during the winter months considerable profits are derived from supplying the wants of the large number of American and Canadian tourists who annually visit these islands; so that the agricultural depression does not affect the general prosperity of the Colony so seriously as it otherwise would do. The profits derived from supplying the needs of distressed ships have not of late years been so large as formerly, owing doubtless to some extent to the gradual substitution of steam for sailing vessels, but it is hoped that the shipping business will be largely increased by the cable communication with Halifax, which is shortly to be established by a company under subsidy from the Imperial Government.

The position of these islands, lying as they do nearly equi-distant from Halifax, New York, and the West Indies, renders them a suitable port of call for ships in distress or in want of coal; and when, added to the natural advantages of their position, they can offer to shipmasters means of immediate communication with their owners and others interested, it is not unreasonable to expect that they will be more generally resorted to.

Though there is every reason to suppose that better prices will be obtained this season, and, it is to be hoped, in future seasons, than in 1889 for the agricultural products of the Colony, yet, as latterly the West Indian Islands have entered into competition with it in the New York market, it can hardly be expected that the very high prices that were obtained in former years will be maintained.

But with the other resources above referred to, two of which at least hold out the promise of considerable extension in the future, there is no reason to feel despondent with regard to the future prosperity of the Colony.

BERMUDA.

Statistical Returns.

The usual table prepared for the Board of Trade statistics is given below :—

Population.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1888 - - -	7,574	7,960	15,534
1889 - - -	7,680	8,063	15,743

	1888.	1889.
	£	£
Gross amount of public revenue - - -	29,372	29,936
Gross amount of public expenditure - -	30,147	30,089
Customs revenue - - - - - -	24,806	23,017
Public debt - - - - - -	8,614	7,220
	Tons.	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared -	228,385	221,755
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared -	196,803	179,272
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared -	31,582	42,483
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared -	49,382	48,328
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared -	179,003	173,427
	£	£
Value of total imports - - - -	299,990	272,603
Value of imports from the United Kingdom -	82,985	70,490
Value of total exports - - - -	99,650	64,976
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom	2,054	2,314

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHIBALD ALISON,
Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency
Lieut.-General Edward Newdigate Newdegate, C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Bermuda.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 78.

CEYLON.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
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1889.

[C.—5897.–8.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
28	British Guiana	1887
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,

No 78.

CEYLON.

Governor Sir A. H. GORDON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, October 8, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony, together with the usual Report by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1888 amounted to Rs. 15,408,812, only just short of Rs. 2,000,000 in excess of the revenue of the preceding year. The expenditure was Rs. 14,630,120, against Rs. 13,313,038 in 1887. But with regard to this great apparent increase of expenditure, it is to be observed that it is not the true expenditure of the Colony; for it includes a sum of Rs. 750,000 which has been reserved to meet future liabilities for interest on account of the loan of £450,000 for the extension of the railway. Making allowance for this sum, the actual surplus in 1888 of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 1,508,692, or, roughly, ten per cent. of the annual revenue,—a result on which the Colony is to be congratulated, and which will permit some of the many urgent wants of the Island to be met.

Revenue.

2. The increase in the revenue is to be traced under every head of importance.

3. The excise on liquor accounts for Rs. 198.675; the customs duties for Rs. 400,462; the receipts on account of Stamps (judicial, revenue, and postage) for an increase of Rs. 85,657; the tolls on traffic on the roads and canals for Rs. 28,468; the grain taxes for Rs. 2,832 and the salt tax for Rs. 13,221.

4. Sources of revenue other than taxation show an equally satisfactory condition of affairs. Sales of Crown lands exhibit an increase of Rs. 120,197; postal and telegraph recoveries an im-

CEYLON.

provement of Rs. 44,979,—a sum which does not represent, however, the whole increase in collections by the Post and Telegraph Department, part being credited under the head of stamps; the Pearl Fishery of 1888 yielded Rs. 403,545 more than that of 1887; the Colombo Harbour returned Rs. 58,744; the railway Rs. 412,890 more than in 1887; and the Colombo Municipal Council paid its full annuity of Rs. 110,000 on account of the water supply for the first time in 1888.

5. The only important item on which there is a reduction is that of timber, where there is a falling off in sales to the amount of Rs. 58,105. This is mainly due to a decision, prompted by the state of the market, not to bring forward Government ebony for sale for the present.

Expenditure.

6. The net increase of expenditure under the head Establishments in 1888 was Rs. 17,983·21. It is difficult, among the numerous small items of increase and decrease, to single out any special object for remark, but attention may be invited to the fact that all but Rs. 500 of the whole net increase (Rs. 13,032) under judicial establishments was due to special appointments in the North-Western Province, all of which have since been suppressed, and that the disbandment of the police band has relieved the Colonial finances of an annual expenditure of Rs. 10,750.

7. Under the head of Services, exclusive of establishments, the apparent increase is Rs. 1,299,098; but from this, as already explained, Rs. 750,000, set apart to meet the interest on the railway loan, has to be deducted. The actual increase is therefore Rs. 549,098.

8. Pensions and loss on exchange,—items over which the Government has no control,—again show considerable increases. Revenue services are increased by the increased cost of the larger pearl fishery of 1888,—an expenditure which is of course not to be regretted. The expenditure on the Colombo Defence Works causes a temporary increase in the military expenditure, and there is an increase under forest services connected with the new forest department, which is likely to be permanent, but which may be expected in time to produce a corresponding increase in revenue.

9. There are decreases under works and buildings and roads and bridges, but these, as explained by the Auditor-General, are matters of account, and are counterbalanced to some extent by the increase under miscellaneous services, under which the fixed contribution to the irrigation fund of one-fourth of the grain tax was in 1888 paid for the first time. There is actually, as explained later on, a decrease in the expenditure of the Public Works Department of about one per cent., but under Public Works generally there is an increase, due to expenditure on the improvement of the Colombo Harbour and to the cost of maintenance of the Colombo Waterworks, the latter of which had hitherto been charged to capital account.

Assets and Liabilities.

10. The assets of the Government on January 1, 1889, amounted to Rs. 8,854,573 68, and the total liabilities to Rs. 7,904,131 78, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 950,441 90.

Loans made by, and payable to, the Government of Ceylon.

11. The only loan of importance is that made to the Kandy Municipality for the construction of waterworks, on which the stipulated annual repayment was made in the course of the year.

Public Debt.

12. The debt of the Colony on January 1, 1889, stood at 2,226,053*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, as against 2,244,967*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* in sterling, and Rs. 365,000 in silver as against Rs. 65,000 on the same day last year.

13. Of the total sum due, 651,433*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* is on account of the Colombo Harbour, 1,243,600*l.* on account of the Mátalé and Nánu-oya extensions of the Government railway, 331,000*l.* on account of the Colombo Waterworks; and the silver loan is on account of Irrigation Works in the North-Central Province authorised by Ordinance No. 1 of 1887.

14. The amount paid off on account of the various sterling loans under arrangements for sinking fund was 18,914*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

15. Provision was made in the course of the year for the raising of a further loan of 450,000*l.* for extensions of the railway to Haputalé and to Bentota; and by a resolution of the Legislature a sum of Rs. 750,000 was invested in Indian Government securities to meet the interest on this sum, pending the construction of the extensions and the commennement of earnings from them.

Imports and Exports.

16. The trade for the year was valued at Rs. 97,908,124 51, as against Rs. 90,331,006 47 in 1887, divided into—

——	1887.	1888.	——
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
Imports - - -	50,312,136	58,534,987	8,212,853 (inc.)
Exports - - -	40,018,869	39,383,134	635,735 (dec.)

CEYLON.

or, exclusive of specie—

——	1887.	1888.	——
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	45,534,604	53,314,854	7,780,250 (inc.)
Exports - - -	38,354,967	39,292,191	937,223 (dec.)

The annual value of the trade of the Colony for the last 10 years, deducting specie, was as follows :—

	Rs.
1879 - - - -	96,293,006
1880 - - - -	97,813,458
1881 - - - -	78,794,252
1882 - - - -	78,101,205
1883 - - - -	78,328,553
1884 - - - -	76,992,639
1885 - - - -	74,633,444
1886 - - - -	76,434,385
1887 - - - -	83,889,572
1888 - - - -	92,607,045

17. The gross customs revenue for 1888 amounted to Rs. 3,747,064, and exceeded that for 1887 by Rs. 567,660; in fact the customs revenue for 1888 is greater than that collected in any year since 1879, which was the greatest ever collected, and during the last five years there has been a steady annual increase.

Imports.

18. The principal imports compare with 1887 as follows :—

——		1887.	1888.
Grain - - - -	bushels	5,717,623	6,630,094
Cotton manufactures, value -	Rs.	4,836,883	5,185,039
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits, value - - - -	,,	1,041,984	1,211,383
Kerosine oil, value - -	,,	407,984	613,970
Metals and metal ware, value -	,,	1,008,861	1,278,834
Machinery, value - - -	,,	535,676	784,359
Coal and coke - - -	tons	181,530	284,464
Specie - - - -	Rs.	4,494,463	4,927,066

There were small increases under the heads of live stock and poonac, and trifling decreases under the heads manures, opium, and tobacco. The quantity of rice was the largest ever imported.

Exports.

19. The appended comparative table of exports for 1887 and 1888 shows the increases and decreases under the most important heads:—

		1887.	1888.
Coffee	cwts.	181,909	139,109
Cinchona	lbs.	13,113,067	12,499,943
Tea	lbs.	13,834,057	23,820,471
Cacao	cwts.	17,460	12,231
Cardamoms	lbs.	384,015	282,595
Cocoanut products. — Cocoanuts	No.	10,044,329	6,009,156
Cocoanut products. — Coir stuffs	cwts.	97,804	112,355
Cocoanut products. — Cocoanut oil	cwts.	323,445	364,116
Cocoanut products. — Copperah	cwts.	136,346	149,005
Cinnamon	lbs.	2,046,153	2,040,589
Citronella oil	ozs.	8,276,218	11,273,127
Plumbago	cwts.	238,599	223,277
Tobacco	cwts.	35,954	57,815
Malt liquor	gallons	175,587	213,846
Arrack	gallons	87,323	98,422

The figures indicate a general increase of trade in the Colony.

Shipping.

12. The annexed table gives the number of ships, and their tonnage, entered inwards and cleared outwards at the ports of the Island for 1886, 1887, and 1888.

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1886	3,088	1,952,290	3,153	1,971,191
1887	3,198	2,071,214	3,265	2,071,143
1888	3,361	2,256,236	3,372	2,197,182

CEYLON.

British and Colonial shipping constitutes nearly six-sevenths of the whole; of the balance, the greater part is French and German The greater part of the increase in the shipping is in Colombo, but there was also an increase at Galle of 51 steamers and 79,870 tons.

Public Works.

21. The expenditure of the Public Works Department in 1888 was Rs. 2,562,902 as against Rs. 2,586,941, in 1887, a reduction of just under one per cent.

22. To this total expenditure the collections under the Road Ordinance contributed Rs. 290,166, and the private contributions under the grant-in-aid system Rs. 48,732. The funds specially appropriated to irrigation under Ordinance 2 of 1887 supplied Rs. 227,546, and the balance was provided for as follows:—

	Rs.	c.
Supply Bill, 1888 - - -	1,890,699	80
Unexpended balances of previous years	84,625	43
Miscellaneous sources - -	21,131	31

23. The expenditure may be conveniently divided as under:—

Establishment - -	317,835	21
Departmental charges - -	157,653	88
Maintenance and repairs of existing public works and buildings	1,126,100	87
New roads, including additions to existing roads - - - -	369,152	78
New bridges - - - -	84,093	99
New irrigation works - -	426,864	6
New buildings, including alterations and additions, and miscellaneous new works not classified above - -	81,201	23
Total -	2,562,902	2

The establishment shows a very trifling increase (Rs. 2,596·70) over 1887, and departmental charges a large diminution of Rs. 31,391. There is a largely increased expenditure (Rs. 124,000) on new roads, but a more than corresponding diminution under irrigation works and works of a miscellaneous character.

24. Maintenance of the public works in the two years 1887 and 1888 compares as under :—

	1888.		1887.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Public buildings - - -	124,775	39	114,814	31
Roads - - -	867,033	34	804,927	42
Bridges - - - -	57,646	68	56,619	71
Canals - - - -	28,305	3	28,088	17
Irrigation works - - -	48,340	43	43,625	51
Total - -	1,126,100	87	1,048,075	12

25. This item of expenditure must of necessity continue to increase as the length of roads and the number of other public works is added to. The additional mileage of roads kept up by the Public Works Department in 1888 was 55·64. The roads were maintained at an average of Rs. 283 per mile.

26. The principal new works were, under the head of new roads, the Wellawáya-Monarágala road, the Mambapána-Ratnapura road, the road along the Colombo Harbour foreshore reclamation, the Bogawantaláwa road extension, and the restoration of the Punnalai causeway. Under irrigation works, the continuation of the Walawé-ganga scheme in the Southern Province, the completion of Kaláwewa, in the North-Central Province; two works in the eastern province (Kaliodai anicut and Veragoda tank); and the initiation of the Bódi-ela irrigation scheme (an anicut feeding two elas), in the central province.

27. The furniture of the Queen's House has been kept in good condition, and the buildings themselves are in a fair state of repair.

Colombo Harbour.

28. The expenditure on this work for the year amounted to Rs. 100,285·49. The work done included the deposit of 1,000 tons of rubble on the berms (to keep them up to their normal slope) and the depositing of 108 new bags of 1,080 tons of concrete.

29. The dredging of the harbour to extend the 28-ft. area was recommenced in August, and continued to the end of the year; and the deepening of the inner harbour near the coal sheds, where the constant dropping of coal had brought about the shoaling of the water, was commenced in December, and will be continued with improved apparatus, which has been ordered from England, during the present year.

CEYLON.

30. The usual examination of the breakwater after the last south-west monsoon showed that the work was intact throughout, and the annual series of cross harbour soundings that no silting up of the harbour had taken place.

31. In 1888, for the first time since the opening of the harbour and the introduction of the special port dues exacted to meet the cost of the work, the returns on account of the Colombo Harbour were sufficient to cover the expenditure.

The following table gives the account for the year :—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure on account of the Colombo Harbour for 1888.

RECEIPTS.	Rs. c.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs. c.
Colombo harbour dues - -	498,106 50	Public Works Loan Commissioners on account principal - -	85,862 1
Pilotage - - - -	36,321 0	Public Works Loan Commissioners on account interest - -	107,453 98
Rent of reclamation ground -	5,429 23	Interest on debentures - -	284,959 60
Sale of sand, &c. - - -	4,277 0	Charges incidental to management, lighting, &c., of the port of Colombo - - - -	56,132 94
Single warehouse rent - -	127,451 23	Director of public works - -	44,170 7
		Principal collector of customs -	948 98
		Treasurer - - - -	47,352 36
		Engineer, harbour works - -	16,500 0
		Inspector-General of Police on account harbour police - -	7,193 16
			644,579 10
		Excess of receipts over expenditure	27,005 86
Total - -	671,584 96	Total - -	671,584 96

This object was secured by the abolition from January 1, 1888, of the privilege of free warehousing for three days in the Government warehouses, the charges on account of warehousing being credited to the Harbour Fund.

Survey Department.

32. The work of this Department in the past year has been as usual of a very varied character, covering forest surveys, provincial and boundary surveys, irrigation surveys, surveys for military purposes, topographical surveys, the usual surveys of applications for the purchase of land, the survey of lands acquired for public

purposes (including specially land acquired for the Bentota Railway extension), the cadastral survey of several considerable villages in the Western Province, and other work of importance and variety.

33. The total area surveyed for sale or settlement was 83,177 acres, at a cost of Re. 1·49 per acre as against Re. 1·67 in 1887. The expenditure of the Department was Rs. 386,940, showing a small increase over the preceding year.

34. The revenue derived from the sale of lands was Rs. 422,064, as against Rs. 330,164 in 1887. 4,281 acres were sold to Europeans at an average rate of Rs. 17·44 per acre, and 17,363 acres to natives at Rs. 17·23 per acre.

Railway.

35. The length of the railway remains at 180⅝ miles, no extension having been opened since 1885. The receipts, expenditure, and net earnings of 1886, 1887, and 1888—that is, since the opening of the last extension—compare as under for the whole line :—

	1886.	1887.	1888.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts - - -	2,687,875	2,947,628	3,387,658
Expenditure - -	1,451,716	1,466,001	1,505,680
Net earnings - -	1,236,159	1,481,627	1,881,978

36. The results for the year on the working of the several sections of the line are as follows :—

	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.	Deficiency.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Main line - - - -	2,075,863	713,372	1,362,491	—
Coast line - - - -	297,574	229,447	68,127	—
Mátálé line - - -	95,873	99,049	—	3,176
Náwalapitiya line - - -	383,955	148,968	184,987	—
Nánuoya line - - -	584,392	314,944	269,448	—

CEYLON

37. The cost of construction and dividend earned by each section compare thus:—

	Cost of Construction.	Net Earnings.	Dividend earned.	
			1888.	1887.
	Rs.	Rs.		Per cent.
Main line - -	17,384,864	1,362,591	7·8	6·5
Coast line - -	2,192,214	68,127	3·1	1·2
Mátálé „ - -	3,391,952	(def.) 3,176	Loss.	Loss.
Náwalapitiya line -	2,674,626	184,987	6·9	5·2
Nanuoya line - -	10,931,209	269,448	2·4	1·9
The Railway as a whole -	36,574,865	1,881,977	5·14	4·1

38. The increase is in both goods and passenger traffic, which compare for the years 1886, 1887, and 1888, as follows:—

Coaching.

	1886.	1887.	1888.
	No.	No.	No.
Ordinary, First and Second class passengers - - -	156,849	164,771	179,952
Season, First and Second class passengers - - -	571	610	593
Ordinary, Third class passengers -	1,661,660	1,801,509	2,002,346
Season do. - -	2,177	2,544	2,638
Parcels, &c. - - -	146,934	159,297	194,193

Goods.

	1886.	1887.	1888.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
General - - - -	133,271	141,339	157,442
Public Departments - -	23,162	20,956	357,739

39. The result of the working of the railway as a whole is satisfactory, but to the general result there are two important

exceptions. The costly extension to Mátalé continues to be worked at a loss, and the Nánu-oya extension shows an augmented return which is, proportionately, very greatly less than is the improvement of profit on the whole Railway. The improvement in the earnings on the Coast line, which is traced by the General Manager to an addition of goods traffic, is of good augury for the prospects of the extension to Bentota.

40. A commencement has been made with the construction both of the Haputalé and of the Bentota extensions.

Legisla ion.

41. Fourteen Ordinances passed the Legislative Council in 1888, all of which have received Her Majesty's confirmation and gracious allowance.

42. Only one of these, the Ordinance providing for the raising of funds by loan for the two extensions of the railway to Haputalé and to Bentota, was of considerable importance.

43. The other Ordinances include a further amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, an Ordinance amending the Joint Stock Companies Ordinance, and Ordinances dealing with Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise and the registration of Trade Marks, the two last quoted following, as nearly as practicable, English legislation on the subject.

Public H i

44. The annexed table shows the comparative birth and death rates per 1,000 of the population during the three years 1886, 1887, and 1888 for the eight Provinces, and for the whole Island. The table is subject to the remark that deaths are more certainly and accurately recorded than births, the registration of the former being enforced by law.

Provinces.	Deaths per Mille.			Births per Mille.		
	1886.	1887.	1888.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Western - - - -	20·2	23·2	23·0	23·8	28·6	29·8
Central - - - -	22·0	22·2	27·0	24·9	29·0	29·7
Northern - - - -	27·9	19·9	23·3	26·7	35·8	32·9
Southern - - - -	25·6	21·2	23·8	24·0	32·4	82·2
Eastern - - - -	24·5	22·5	27·6	39·8	43·9	44·1
North-Western - - -	25·2	32·2	35·3	36·2	41·1	36·1
North-Central - - -	35·8	31·9	46·3	39·3	44·4	41·9
Uva - - - - -	27·0	33·0	57·9	30·8	32·1	30·1
Island - -	23·7	24·0	26·7	27·1	32·9	32·1

45. The Principal Civil Medical Officer reports that the health of the Island was not satisfactory in 1888, fevers of a malarial

CEYLON.

type and cholera having prevailed epidemically in several parts of the Island.

46. Of the latter disease there were outbreaks in May, June and July along the Tamil immigrant route through the Northern, North-Central, and Central Provinces, which spread into, and were the cause of many deaths in, the northern portion of the Island. Another serious outbreak occurred among the pilgrims to the Roman Catholic shrine of St. Anna's, in the North-Western Province, scaring the pilgrims, who quickly dispersed carrying the infection with them. The total number of deaths from cholera in the whole Island was 250, the number of cases reported having been 463. The bulk of the cases were in the Northern and North-Western Provinces.

47. The outbreak of small-pox in the Southern Province, which caused many deaths in 1887, continued into the year 1888, during which 409 cases occurred in that Province. There were 156 deaths from this disease in the year for the Island.

48. The comparative table subjoined gives the number of hospitals and dispensaries open, the number of patients, and the death-rate for the years 1887 and 1888:—

	Number open.		Number of Patients.		Number of Deaths.		Per-centage of Deaths to Patients.	
	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.
Civil hospitals - -	24	25	22,607	23,283	2,083	2,319	9·21	9·96
Medical Aid hospitals *a* -	9	10	2,522	2,603	429	727	17·01	20·24
Immigrant hospitals -	6	6	1,689	2,155	129	155	7·6	7·1
Dispensaries - - -	51	53	104,000	128,533	—	—	—	—
Police Hospital, Colombo -	1	1	636	492	—	—	—	—
De Soysa Lying-in Home -	1	1	145	165	1	6	·66	3.6
Jail Hospitals - -	31	31	5,332	5,969	109	129	2·04	2·16
Lunatic Asylum - -	1	1	467	425	30	27	6·4	6·3
Leper Asylum *b* - -	1	1	237	258	27	44	10·97	17

a Includes two dispensaries with beds for urgent cases.
b Contains separate wards for lepers and paupers suffering from incurable diseases.

Vaccination.

49. The following figures show the total number of persons operated upon in 1887 and 1888:—

Year	Primary Vaccination.				Re-vaccination.		
	Total.	Successful.	Absent.	Percentage of Successful.	Total.	Successful.	Percentage of Successful.
1887 - -	122,948	98,243	19,835	79·09	8,873	5,513	62·13
1888 - -	126,823	103,707	17,445	81·77	12,152	8,717	71·73

The practice of animal vaccination commenced in 1887 was continued successfully through 1888. The total numbers vaccinated bear a satisfactory proportion to the population.

The Medical Department.

50. The expenditure of the medical department was Rs. 589,445·53 in 1888, as against Rs. 582,965·55 in 1887. The receipts from paying patients at hospitals and dispensaries were Rs. 43,758·69 in 1888, as against Rs. 36,463·70 in 1887.

51. The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance in 1888 is shown below :—

	Rs.	c.
Total cost, 1888 - - -	160,414	25
Amount recovered from estates on account of visits, medicines, &c. -	40,037	68
Balance to be met from export duty	120,376	57
Receipts from export duty - -	58,589	6
Deficit met from General Revenue -	61,787	51

Education.

52. The proportion of children attending school to the whole population continues to improve steadily, being now for the whole Island 1 child for every 21 of the population, adults and children combined. In 1887 it was 1 in 22; in 1886, 1 in 24; in 1885, 1 in 26; and in 1884 1 in 27.

53. The annexed table gives the comparative returns of attendance in Government, in grant-in-aid, and in unaided and Pansala (or Buddhist Monastery) Schools for 1887 and 1888.

It will be observed that, while the number of scholars in each description of school has considerably increased, the cost to Government per scholar continues to decrease, owing, in the case of Government schools, to careful management and reduction of expenditure wherever compatible with efficiency on the part of the Public Instruction Department, while in the case of grant-in-aid schools really good English work is insisted upon before a grant can be earned, thus gradually counteracting the evil effects upon the country of a rising generation of half-educated idlers who deem that a little pigeon-English places them above honest work. Grant-in-aid vernacular schools, however, are encouraged, and are liberally treated, while a practical education in the rudiments of agriculture and sanitation is fostered in the higher standards of every village school; in the case of the former, in the hope that the influx of young men into towns in search of Government employment may be checked by a possibility of earning an honest livelihood in their own villages by the improved cultivation of

CEYLON.

their lands, and in the case of the other, in the hope that they may in the course of time learn by the observance of a few simple rules of health, too generally neglected, to free themselves from an avoidable but frequent excess of mortality.

Return of Attendance in Government and other Schools.

—	No. of Schools in		Attended by					
	1887.	1888.	Boys in 1887.	Boys in 1888.	Girls in 1887.	Girls in 1888.	Total in 1887.	Total in 1888.
Government schools -	440	438	27,560	30,765	5,005	5,183	32,565	35,948
Grant-in-aid schools -	899	919	44,819	46,322	18,176	20,078	62,995	66,400
Unaided private schools - - -	543	583	12,557	12,803	3,395	3,809	15,952	16,612
Pansala schools - -	1,749	1,844	9,042	12,211	—	—	9,042	12,211
Total - - -	3,631	3,784	93,978	102,101	26,576	29,070	120,554	131,171

—	Average Number of Scholars per School in 1888.	Average Cost to Government per Boy.		Average cost to Government per Girl.	
		In 1887.	In 1888.	In 1887.	In 1888.
		Rs c.	Rs c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Government Schools -	82	5 30	5 17	3 75	3 43
Grant-in-Aid Schools -	72	2 97 per scholar	2 82 per scholar	Boys and Girls not distinguished.	
Unaided Private Schls.	28	—	—	—	—
Pansala Schools -	6	—	—	—	—

54. The following return shows the schools and scholars, omitting the unaided schools, classified into English, Anglo-Vernacular, and Vernacular schools, for the years 1887 and 1888.

In future years the Anglo-Vernacular schools will disappear from the returns, being merged in the new Primary and Middle English schools wherein, as recorded in last year's report, English will be taught as a language through the medium of the Vernacular, in terms of the recommendations of the Indian Educational Commission. At present English has been too frequently taught by itself, and the Vernaculars by themselves, a simultaneous knowledge of English and the Vernaculars being by no means compulsory under the Code even for Native children. This system has been justly condemned by the Director of Public Instruction, and has been altered with the sanction of Government.

CEYLON.

	Number of Schools.		Number of Boys on the List.		Number of Girls on the List		Total Number of Boys and Girls on the List.		Total Number of Scholars in Average Attendance.	
	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.
GOVERNMENT.										
English	3	3	333	319	—	—	333	319	292	285
Anglo-vernacular	25	25	2,412	2,954	278	314	2,690	3,268	1,677	1,836
Vernacular	412	410	24,875	27,492	4,667	4,869	29,542	32,361	16,288	16,979
GRANT-IN-AID.										
English	84	83	6,368	6,628	1,406	1,558	7,774	8,186	5,571	5,915
Anglo-vernacular	71	56	4,477	3,181	1,278	1,514	5,755	4,695	3,569	2,992
Vernacular	744	780	33,974	36,513	15,492	17,006	49,466	53,519	28,854	31,395
Total	1,339	1,357	72,439	77,087	23,121	25,261	95,560	102,348	56,251	59,402

CEYLON.

55. The proportion which the number of children attending school bears to the population of the several Provinces during 1887 and 1888 is shown in the following return, from which it will be seen that while the advanced Provinces are progressing steadily, the needs of the backward and uncivilised Provinces have been successfully attended to by the Department of Public Instruction:—

	1887.	1888.
Western - - - - -	1 in 16	1 in 15
Central - - - - -	1 in 48	1 in 42
Northern - - - - -	1 in 13	1 in 13
Southern - - - - -	1 in 24	1 in 23
Eastern - - - - -	1 in 16	1 in 14
North-Western - - -	1 in 43	1 in 37
North Central - - - -	1 in 102	1 in 45
Uva - - - - - -	1 in 96	1 in 76

56. The Grant-in-Aid Training school for teachers, which, with the Government classes for the same purpose, now replace the old Government Normal School, continue to be only partially successful, the numbers of passes being slightly fewer than in 1887, while in 1887 they were fewer than in 1886.

The Director of Public Instruction complains that it is impossible to examine these aided training schools upon at all the same standard as the Government classes.

The Government classes, however, continue to be successful, and the number of certificated teachers continues to be in excess of the demand for them, both in Government and Aided schools.

57. A new feature in educational matters is a revised system of night schools, and for admitting adults to village classes in neglected districts upon the grant-in-aid system at half time rates. A good beginning has been made, but no returns are as yet available.

58. In the report for last year it was recorded that there were six branch Agricultural schools taught by young men trained in the Colombo School of Agriculture opened by the present Director of Public Instruction.

The Government still pays for only six of these branch Agricultural schools, but the utility of them has been so recognised that two more have been opened at local request, and are paid for by local funds, while other local applications are under consideration.

It has been successfully demonstrated at all these schools that, with a little extra care and trouble, the yield of paddy may be

more than doubled by the native cultivator, while other products suitable to natives have received attention.

These schools are distinct from the agricultural classes, which are compulsory in all Government vernacular schools, and which are encouraged in all grant-in-aid village schools.

59. The expenditure on Education in 1888 was Rs. 458,246·76 as compared with Rs. 454,716·10 in 1887.

Forest Conservancy.

60. In the course of the year (1888) the constitution of a Forest Department under a Conservator of Forests,—a step which has been long contemplated by the Government, but has been delayed through financial considerations,—was finally effected, and the old arrangement of forest management, with a want of system and uniformity, by Foresters attached to the Departments of the Government Agents superseded.

61. Lieut.-Colonel Clarke, the Surveyor-General, who undertook the duties of Acting Conservator of Forests towards the close of 1887, laid before the Government in 1888 a scheme for the organisation of the new department, which was approved and adopted by the Government, and measures were taken to bring it into effect. The following is the sanctioned staff:—

Assistant Conservators of Forests (*eight*).—One at Rs. 4,000, 3 at Rs. 3,500, and 4 at Rs. 3,000 per annum. Travelling allowance: Southern, Central, and Western Provinces, Rs. 1,200; North-Central, Uva, Eastern, Northern, and North-Western Provinces, Rs. 900 each, as *maximum*.

Rs. 7·50 per diem is allowed in three of the Provinces and Rs. 5 in others for all nights away from home.

Foresters (*five*).—Two at Rs. 3,000, 2 at Rs. 2,500, and 1 at Rs. 2,000. Travelling: three in Central and Western Provinces at Rs. 900; 1 in Eastern and 1 in North-Western Province at Rs. 500, commuted.

Forest Rangers (*twelve*).—Four at Rs. 900, 8 at Rs. 720 Commuted travelling allowance of Rs. 360 per annum.

Forest Guards (*fourteen*).—Fourteen at Rs. 600 per annum, and commuted travelling allowance of Rs. 200 per annum.

By the courtesy of the Government of India, two Ceylon Forest Officers were permitted to join the Indian Forest School of Dehra Dun.

62. General instructions for forest settlements, based on those followed in India, were prepared and issued, and in the course of the year twenty blocks of forest, aggregating upwards of 40,000 acres, were reserved and partially settled.

63. The supply of timber and firewood to all public departments was committed to the Forest Department, and the system of supply of firewood to the railway revised and placed under a single officer.

64. Operations in the way of reafforestation have been commenced on a small scale in three Provinces.

CEYLON.

Criminal Statistics.

65. The numbers of cases and persons charged before the police magistrates for the past four years,—that is, from the date of the introduction of the Penal Code and the new form of procedure for Courts,—compare as follows:—

—	Cases instituted.	Cases in which there were convictions.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.
1885 - -	50,406	12,961	87,597	20,236
1886 - -	52,815	12,416	94,236	20,791
1887 - -	48,755	10,976	89,395	17,710
1888 -	54,952	13,202	104,179	23,872

The increase in institutions is in part due to a change in the law, which relieved charges of voluntarily causing hurt from the stamp fee of 25c. on institutions, which was made by the Ordinance No. I of 1888, a charge it is proposed shortly to reimpose: but the whole increase cannot be thus accounted for. For instance, the number of persons convicted in the police courts of thefts other than thefts of cattle in 1887 and 1888 are 2,209 and 2,685, respectively; the convictions for thefts of cattle in the four years ending 1888 are: 496 in 1885, 540 in 1886, 618 in 1887, and 828 in 1888; and though a portion of this increase in 1888 (101 convictions) is traceable to the action of the special police magistrate of the North-Western Province, the figures for police courts generally are such that it is impossible to resist the inference that there has been a general considerable increase of petty crime.

66. The figures for the higher courts, given below, show an increase, though to a less extent, of serious crime, also in the two preceding years, but a considerable decrease from that in 1885:—

—	Convicted in the District Courts.	Convicted in the Supreme Court.	Convicted in both Courts.
1885 - -	640	690	1,330
1886 - -	625	330	955
1887 -	620	336	956
1888 - -	560	449	1,003

The results of the trials before the Supreme Court of murder and culpable homicide for the last four years are as follows:—

	Murder.		Culpable Homicide.	
	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1885 - - -	24	42	68	16
1886* - -	48	34	21	13
1887 - - -	27	34	40	33
1888 - - -	34	33	48	13

67. The general result of an examination of the criminal statistics for all courts is not satisfactory.

The subject will have consideration in the course of the current year (1889) in connection with the report of the Commissioner from India, whose inquiry into the state of the police arrangements and of crimes generally, commenced in 1888, has been recently concluded, and measures will, it is hoped, be adopted which may lead to more satisfactory returns in the future.

E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 8th October 1889.

* The returns for this year do not properly distinguish between the graver and lesser descriptions of homicide.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

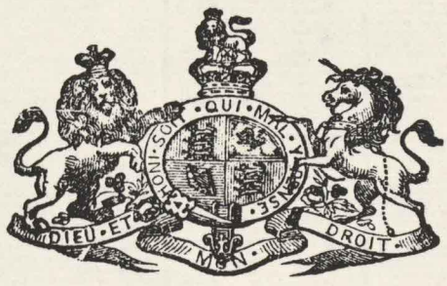
No. 79.

FIJI.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 34.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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1889.

[C.—5897.-9.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
29	Western Australia	1887
30	Falkland Islands	"
31	Basutoland	"
32	St. Lucia	"
33	Hong Kong	"
34	Fiji	"
35	British Honduras	"
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
37	Ceylon	"
38	British New Guinea	"
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	"
43	Victoria	"
44	British Bechuanaland	"
45	New Guinea	"
46	Newfoundland	"
47	New Zealand	"
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	"
50	Bermuda	"
51	Trinidad	"
52	Turk's Islands	"
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	"
54	Falkland Islands	"
55	Bahamas	"
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	"
59	Straits	"
60	Natal	"
61	Gambia	"
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	"
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	"
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"

No. 79.

FIJI.

Sir J. B. THURSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
August 19, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a Report by Mr. James Stewart, Chief Clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office, upon the Blue Book for the year 1888.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, YEAR 1888.

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1888 :—

I.—TAXES, DUTIES, FEES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

The following alterations have been made during the year, viz. :—

(1.) *Native Taxes.*

The total assessment was increased from 17,700*l.* to 18,780*l.* The amount accruing to revenue from this source exceeded the assessment by 872*l.*, owing to the payment during the year 1888 of certain deficits due from the previous year.

(2.) *Customs Duties.*

By Ordinance No. XIII. of 1888 the Customs tariff was altered so as to increase the rate of duty on hardware, ironmongery, and drapery from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. *ad valorem.* The

FIJI.

duty on oils was at the same time raised from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per gallon, except in the case of kerosene of less than 150° test, where, in order to keep out a dangerous low-class oil, the rate of duty was increased to 1*s.* 3*d.* per gallon. The duty on tobacco was reduced from 4*s.* to 3*s.* per pound. A considerable addition was made to the list of articles exempt from duty which stands as follows :—

List of Articles exempt from Duty.

Agricultural implements and machines and parts thereof,—the following—shellers, digging-forks, hoes, picks, ploughs, scarifiers, sickles, scythes, cultivators, harrows, grain-sowers, coffee-pulpers, winnowing machines, evaporating machines (for tea, fruit, and like products), fibre ginning, spinning, and weaving machines, grist mills, handles (wooden and unfitted),—animals, anchors (black), biscuits (unsweetened), ballast (ships—pig and scrap iron), bêche-de-mer, books and periodicals (printed), boiler-plates, bags and sacks, casks and tanks for exporting molasses, coin, copper-sheathing, chain cables (black) over three-sixteenths inches in diameter, coal, coke, cocoanut fibre, cocoanuts, copra, cotton, curiosities, canvas No. 1 to No. 6, copper (rods), drain pipes, flour (including seconds, thirds, and fourths), felt, garden seeds, guano, hides, horns, iron and steel rails and fish-plates and bolts and nuts for the same, lead for lining tea-chests, living oysters, luggage (personal), machinery (agricultural, mining, sawing, steam-engines and boilers) and parts thereof, meat (preserved and salt), manures, metals (old), metal (yellow for sheathing), matting for ships' dunnage, mats for sugar, nets (fishing), oars, ores, outside packages in which goods are ordinarily contained, paper-making machinery, paving stones, pitch, plants, powder (blasting), pug mills, pollard, resin, sandalwood, shell (tortoise and pearl), skins, slates for roofing, South Sea Island produce, steel and iron punts and lighters, and materials for building the same, steel railway sleepers, and bolts and nuts for the same, sharps, sugar, sulphur, tin cut for exporting produce, tar, water-pipes, woolpacks.

(3.) *Wharfage Dues.*

A tonnage duty was fixed for the use of the Government wharves by punts and lighters.

(4.) *General Licenses.*

A slight alteration was made on the rates of general licenses, the annual fee for an auctioneer and commission agent's license being reduced from 30*l.* to 20*l.* and for an undertaker's license from 10*l.* to 5*l.* while the annual fee for a hawker's license and for a baker's (country) license was increased from 2*l.* to 5*l.* and from 1*l.* to 2*l.* respectively.

(5.) *Marine Board Fees.*

Provision has been made for the payment of a reduced fee (7*s.* 6*d.*) on application for a seagoing certificate for vessels of between two and ten tons.

(6.) *Postal Tariff.*

The postage on letters for the United Kingdom viâ Brindisi has been reduced from 10*d.* to 8*d.* the half ounce, and on letters for Samoa from 6*d.* to 2*d.* the half ounce.

The postage on newspapers has been increased to 2*d.* for each newspaper, except in the case of the United Kingdom (viâ San Francisco), the Australian Colonies, and the islands of the Western Pacific, to which the rate is still 1*d.*

(7.) *Bêche-de-mer Fishing.*

The measure passed in June 1887 to provide for one year for the issue of licenses to fish for bêche-de-mer in any part of the Colony has been continued.

(8.) *Indian Interpreters' Fees.*

By the repeal of Ordinance No. XIV. of 1887 the scale of fees charged to suitors for services of Court interpreters has been abolished.

(9.) *Divorce Fees.*

By Native Regulation No. 2 of 1888 the fee to be charged by the Provincial Court on the hearing of an application for divorce has been increased from 10*s.* to 1*l.*

0.) *Master and Servants' Contracts.*

By the "Master and Servants' Ordinance, 1888," a fee in lieu of stamp duty on every contract of service is fixed at 1*s.*

(11.) *Telegraph Construction.*

Provision has been made by the Ordinance No. VIII. of 1888 for the deposits to be made and fees to be charged in connexion with the construction of lines of telegraph on public lands.

II.—Revenue and Expenditure.

The past year is the first since the year 1883 in which the revenue has exceeded the expenditure.

The revenue and expenditure, and the consequent surplus or deficit, in each of the five years since that date are shown in the following statement:—

FIJI.

Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure, Surplus or Deficit of each Year from 1884 *to* 1888 *inclusive.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.			Surplus.	Deficit.
		Establishments.	Exclusive.	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 -	91,522 19 5	39,235 2 0	59,232 17 2	98,467 19 2	—	6,944 19 9
1885 -	76,668 19 10	42,458 9 0	49,750 13 11	92,209 2 11	—	15,540 3 1
1886 -	64,574 1 1	38,407 2 6	39,726 5 8	78,133 8 2	—	13,559 7 1
1887 -	64,916 2 9	33,499 7 8	39,651 5 5	73,150 13 1	—	8,234 10 4
1888 -	65,018 14 8	25,009 3 11	33,983 16 6	58,993 0 5	6,02 14 3	—

Revenue.

The following is an analysis of the items of revenue showing:—

(1.) The amount of revenue collected under each head for the years 1887 and 1888.

(2.) The increase and decrease under each head of revenue for the year 1888 as compared with the year 1887.

(3.) For the years 1885, 1886, 1887, and 1888 the proportion per centum of revenue accruing under each head of receipt.

REVENUE :—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing (1) Amount of Revenue, Years 1887 and 1888, (2) Increase and Decrease, (3) Proportion per Centum under each Head, Years 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888.

Head of Receipt.	Revenue Collected.		1888. Increase over 1887.	1888. Decrease from 1887.	Proportion per Centum of Revenue accruing under each Head.			
	1887.	1888.			1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Customs dues	24,668 15 2	24,571 12 4	—	97 2 10	41·23	45·45	38·00	37·79
Warehouse and wharfage dues	3,217 0 7	3,181 4 4	—	35 16 3	5·48	5·58	4·95	4·89
Pilotage, light, and shipping dues	1,518 5 1	1,616 18 9	98 13 8	—	2·47	2·79	2·34	2·48
General licenses	3,667 3 0	3,617 4 6	—	49 18 6	5·45	6·13	5·65	5·56
Native taxes	16,416 10 2	19,652 3 9	3,235 13 7	—	22·29	14·65	25·29	30·23
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	1,909 1 5	1,698 17 4	—	210 4 1	2·66	3·71	2·94	2·61
Postal dues	2,491 18 6	1,778 11 7	—	713 6 11	2·78	3·18	3·84	2·74
Stamps	970 18 10	1,231 4 6	260 5 8	—	2·53	2·01	1·49	1·89
Hospitals	2,675 12 6	1,678 12 4	—	997 0 2	3·62	3·40	4·12	2·58
Freights	60 11 6	38 4 0	—	22 7 6	·49	·07	·09	·06
Miscellaneous	3,948 16 7	3,681 5 8	—	267 10 11	5·35	6·94	6·08	5·66
Fees on Crown grants and surveys	670 8 3	416 9 3	—	253 19 0	1·31	1·41	1·03	·64
Land sales	529 14 6	142 4 0	—	387 10 6	·89	1·36	·81	·22
Suva water rate	531 18 9	720 4 2	188 5 5	—	Nil.	Nil.	·82	1·11
Registration fees	245 12 2	380 3 0	134 10 10	—	·68	·51	·38	·58
Native industrial school	283 18 9	99 11 0	—	184 7 9	·16	·43	·44	·15
Receipts, labour depôt	1,103 0 6	514 4 2	—	588 16 4	2·08	1·78	1·69	·79
Repayment of former advances for returning Polynesian immigrants	6 16 6	—	—	6 16 6	·45	·53	·01	Nil.
Total	64,916 2 9	65,018 14 8	3,917 9 2	3,814 17 3	—	—	—	—
Net Increase	—	—	102 11 11	—	—	—	—	—

FIJI.

The actual receipts for the year exceeded the estimated revenue by 1,268*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

The amount received by way of native taxes during the year 1888 was 19,652*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, being greater than the corresponding receipt of any year since 1879.

The amount of revenue during each of the past three years from (1) native taxes, (2) other sources, has been as follows, viz.:—

—	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Native taxes - -	9,463 12 11	16,416 10 2	19,652 3 9
Other sources - -	55,110 8 2	48,499 12 7	45,366 10 11
Total - -	64,574 1 1	64,916 2 9	65,018 14 8

It is thus seen that, although the total revenue has increased during each of the past two years, there has been a continued decrease in the receipts from all other sources except native taxes.

It is anticipated that for the year 1889 this decrease will be diminished, but it is at the same time believed that from various causes, principally the prevailing low price of cobra, the amount received by way of native taxes for the year 1889 will not exceed 15,000*l.*

The refund of surplus taxes made to the various provinces at the end of the year was greater than the refund of any year since the institution of the native taxation scheme, amounting in the aggregate to 7,293*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement exhibits the analysis of expenditure for each of the past two years:—

Detail.	1887.	1888.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Civil establishment - - -	27,078 13 1	19,308 4 9
Contingent expenditure - - -	35,142 4 5	27,552 16 9
Judicial establishment - - -	6,420 14 7	5,700 19 2
Contingent expenditure - -	1,132 0 4	921 18 3
Miscellaneous - - - -	3,260 15 7	5,317 8 10
Pensions - - - -	116 5 1	191 12 8
Total - - -	73,150 13 1	58,993 0 5

The actual expenditure for the year was less than the estimate by 2,090*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

The expenditure of the year 1888, as will be seen from the table given, has been reduced from that of the year 1887 by the sum of 14,157*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* This saving has been brought about mainly through the reduction of establishments.

The tax on the salaries of civil servants, which, in order to assist in equalizing revenue and expenditure, was imposed in the beginning of the year 1887, was increased in respect of the year 1888 to the following scale, viz. :—

Salaries over 100*l.* and under 300*l.* per annum 10 per cent.
Salaries of 300*l.* and under 500*l.* per annum 15 per cent.
Salaries of 500*l.* per annum and over 20 per cent.

The reduction of expenditure effected during the years 1887 and 1888, by the imposition of the special tax on the salaries of officials, has been as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Year 1887 - - - -	2,001	11	11
Year 1888 - - - -	3,430	17	7
Total amount saved by imposition of salary tax during the two years - -	5,432	9	6

The expenditure of the year 1888 was less than the revenue by the sum of 6,025*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, notwithstanding the fact that certain extraordinary payments were made during the year, among them one to the extent of 2,114*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* by way of "compensation for abolition of offices."

III.—Municipal and Local Revenues.

The gross revenue and expenditure of the local town and school boards for each of the past two years were as follows :—

Board.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Suva Town Board - -	1,472 6 3	883 14 3	1,319 7 10	953 8 0
„ School „ - -	673 3 7	636 6 10	681 17 10	621 18 3
Levuka Town Board - -	999 4 5	839 8 2	888 3 2	895 12 3
„ School „ - -	770 16 4	589 3 8	702 18 8	610 11 5
Total - -	3,717 10 7	2,948 12 11	3,592 7 6	3,081 9 11

Fiji

The amount contributed by Government during the year was :—

	£	s.	d.
To the town boards - - -	269	12	0
„ school boards - - -	538	13	0
Total - - -	808	5	0

These public bodies have no borrowing powers and there is consequently no debt.

IV.—Public Debt.

The public debt remains as at the end of the year 1887 (*vide* statement on page 14 of Report on Blue Book for 1887, No. 34, C. 5249–37), except that it has been reduced by the payment of the statutory liquidation.

The following statement of assets and liabilities shows the position of the colony at 31st December 1888, the excess of liabilities over assets being 267,026*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* The corresponding figures at the end of the year 1887 were 279,148*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December 1888.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Advances to be repaid to the Colony - - - -	228	3	10	Amounts in Deposit Accounts and due by the Government - -	219	3	9
Amount due to the Immigration Department - - -	6,411	5	6	Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of native lands, on which interest at 5 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the native owners - - - -	2,734	13	4
Advance from public account against Suva works advance (Ordinance No. XX. of 1882 and No. XVIII. of 1888) - -	11,437	17	3	Loan—Floated under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880 - 150,000 0 0			
Unpaid portion of 9,403*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, advance made from public account for Indian introduction, ex "Ganges," recoverable by annual payments from 1885-89 (under Ordinance No. XVI. of 1884) - - - - -	1,799	17	7	Less principal of debentures redeemed - 12,100 0 0	137,900	0	0
Imperial pensions paid in the Colony and recoverable from Paymaster-General, London -	31	4	0	Imperial Advances - - 104,025 7 11			
Fund for the redemption of the debentures loan, 150,000*l.* (under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880) on the 31st December 1888 -	184	8	2	Do. do. - 11,166 6 7	115,389	14	6
				Public Account—Cheques outstanding, 31st December 1888 -	11,166	12	1
				Special advance from Indian Immigrants' Return-passages Fund, 1887 - - - -	4,339	10	0
Public Trust Account— £ s. d.				Public Trust Account—			
Fixed deposits at interest - 21,164 5 6				Wages and return-passage money of Polynesian immigrants - - - -	21,912	0	10
Bank of New Zealand, credit balance, 31st December 1888 - - 747 15 4							
	21,912	0	10				
Carried forward -	42,004	17	2	Carried forward -	293,661	14	6

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward		42,004 17 2	Brought forward		293,661 14 6
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—					
Fixed deposits at interest	5,500 0 0				
Bank of New Zealand, credit balance, 31st December 1888	640 15 2				
Balance with emigration agent, Calcutta, 30th September 1888	669 5 2				
		6,810 0 4	INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND— Amount standing to credit of above account		6,810 0 4
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES' ACCOUNT—					
Fixed deposits at interest	1,500 0 0				
Bank of New Zealand credit balance, 31st December 1888	439 3 7				
		1,939 3 7	INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES' ACCOUNT— Amount standing to credit of above account		1,939 3 7
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGE'S FUND—(Under Ordinance XIII. of 1882—			INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES' FUND (Under Ordinance XIII. of 1882)—		
Fixed deposits at interest		11,399 1 4	Amount standing to credit of above account		11,399 1 4
		62,153 2 5	Crown Agents (advance at call)		1,500 0 0
			Bank of New Zealand, debit balance on the 31st December 1888		11,226 1 5
Excess of liabilities		267,026 19 6	Crown Agents' debit balance on the 31st December		2,644 0 9
		329,180 1 11			329,180 1 11

HORACE G. C. EMBERSON,
Acting Receiver-General.

Audited :—D. J. CHISHOLM,
Auditor.

—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on public works during the year was as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Roads, bridges, and culverts	246 10 0
Wharfs, repairing	185 19 7
Repairs and additions	590 4 9
Solo lighthouse (total cost)	5,240 8 8

Lights.

The list of lights, given at pages 16 and 17 of Blue Book, C. 5,249–37, does not require alteration.

Fiji.

VI.—Legislation.

The following is a list of the Ordinances enacted during the year 1888, with notes explanatory of the purpose of the legislation where it is not made clear by the title of the enactment.

No. 1.—Relating to return passages of Indian immigrants (repealed).

No. 2.—To continue Ordinance No. XI. of 1888. The Ordinance of 1888 was a tentative measure and provided for payment of an export duty on bêche-de-mer procured from the reefs of the Colony. Simultaneously therewith a Regulation was published permitting the fishing for bêche-de-mer in all parts of the Colony on payment of a license fee. The proceeds of the export duty is credited to the native communities of the districts where the bêche-de-mer is procured. This arrangement has been continued by this Ordinance.

No. 3.—To repeal previous enactments relating to the appointment of a marine board and to make other provision in lieu thereof.

No. 4.—Respecting Crown lands. This Ordinance prescribes the procedure to be observed in procuring and leasing Crown lands.

No. 5.—To amend Ordinance No. XXI. of 1880, intituled an Ordinance relating to native lands. This Ordinance extends without limit the period for which native land may be leased to the Crown, and prescribes the mode of sub-leasing such lands.

No. 6.—To appropriate for the service of the year 1887 the sum of 4,768*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the amount already sanctioned by Ordinance.

No. 7.—Respecting native medical practitioners.

No. 8.—To provide for and regulate the construction and maintenance by private persons of telegraph and other lines on public lands.

No. 9.—To amend the Wharfage Duty Ordinance, 1882.

No. 10.—To repeal Ordinance No. XXII. of 1883 (the licensing Ordinance), and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 11.—To amend the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance 1876.

No. 12.—To amend Ordinance No. 16 of 1887. This Ordinance prohibits trading before nine o'clock in the forenoon on Sunday, which was permitted by the previous Ordinance.

No. 13.—To repeal the Customs Duties Ordinance 1885, and to make other provision in lieu thereof.

No. 14.—To appropriate the sum of 57,489*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* to the service of the year 1889.

No. 15.—To prohibit the use of intoxicating liquors by Indians or Polynesians. Previous Ordinances only prohibited the supply of intoxicating liquors to these classes.

No. 16.—To amend and declare the law relating to masters and servants.

No. 17.—To repeal Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, intituled "An "Ordinance to provide Indian interpreters for Courts of Justice."

No. 18.—To extend the operation of Ordinance No. XX. of 1882, postponing the repayment of the Suva works advance, until 1st January 1892.

No. 19.—To regulate the granting of free return passages to Indian immigrants.

No. 20.—With regard to vaccination.

No. 21.—To amend and consolidate the law relating to the hiring of Polynesian immigrants.

VII.—Councils.

(1.) *Executive Council.*

The following alterations took place during the year 1888:—

The Acting Colonial Secretary, the Honourable Dr. MacGregor, left the Colony on 6th June 1888. The Honourable Francis P. Winter who during the absence of the Chief Justice had been acting as Attorney General, demitted that appointment on 29th July 1888. The Honourable Henry Spencer Berkeley thereupon resumed the office of Attorney General.

(2.) *Legislative Council.*

The changes noted in connexion with the Executive Council also took place here:—

His Honour Mr. Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice, returned from leave on 29th July 1888.

Mr. James Blyth (late Secretary for Native Affairs) and Mr. Henry Anson (late Agent General of Immigration) were compulsorily retired from the service on 10th March 1888, and consequently ceased to hold office as official members of Council.

Mr. Bolton Glanvil Corney, M.R.C.S.E., Chief Medical Officer, was appointed an official member of Council on 5th June 1888.

Mr. Thomas B. Matthews was appointed an unofficial member of Council on 4th December 1888 to act during the temporary absence from the Colony of the Honourable John Hill.

VIII.—Civil Establishment.

Governor Sir John Bates Thurston, K.C.M.G., &c., assumed the administration of the Government on 27th February 1888.

The Honourable William MacGregor, M.D., C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary, left the Colony on 6th June 1888, after fourteen years' service therein, to assume the appointment of Administrator of British New Guinea.

His Honour Mr. Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice, returned from leave on 29th July 1888, whereupon Mr. Attorney-General Berkeley relieved Mr. F. P. Winter, who had been acting as Attorney-General during Mr. Clarke's absence.

The office of Secretary for Native Affairs was amalgamated with that of Colonial Secretary, and Mr. James Blyth, the late incumbent, was compulsorily retired on a pension from 11th March 1888.

The office of Agent General of Immigration was similarly amalgamated with that of Receiver General; Mr. Horace G. C. Emberson, the Acting Receiver General, took over the office of Agent General on 11th March 1888, from which duty the late Agent General, Mr. Henry Anson, was granted two months' leave of absence and was compulsorily retired with compensation.

Consequent on the departure from the Colony of Dr. MacGregor, Mr. Bolton Glanvil Corney, M.R.C.S.E., was appointed to be Chief Medical Officer.

Eleven officers resigned their appointments during the year, which necessitated several alterations in the staff of the service.

Two officers died during the year, viz., Mr. Edward O'Brien Heffernan, Stipendiary Magistrate, and Ratu Timoci Tavanavanua, Mata to Roko Tui Tai Levu.

No leave of absence was granted to any officer during the year.

Twenty-six officers gave security for the due discharge of their duties.

IX.—Pensions.

A pension on abolition of office was granted to Mr. James Blyth, late Secretary for Native Affairs, amounting to 165*l.* per annum, to date from 11th March 1888.

X.—Population.

The following is the return of population at 31st December 1888 as estimated by the Acting Registrar-General:—

Class.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans - - -	1,327	788	2,115
Half-castes - - -	424	421	845
East Indian (immigrant labourers) - - -	3,607	2,883	6,489
Chinese - - - - -	26	3	29
Polynesians (immigrant labourers) - - -	2,232	135	2,367
Rotumans - - -	1,077	1,208	2,285
Fijians - - - - -	57,942	53,369	111,311
Total -	66,635	58,806	125,441

Comparing these figures with those given last year, there would appear to have been an aggregate increase of 783 souls. In only one class of the population (Rotumans) does there appear to have been a decrease.

XI.—Immigration and Emigration.

During the year 1888 the immigration to, and emigration from, the Colony were as follows:—

Class.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.
Polynesian labourers - -	278	193
East Indian „ - -	539	105
Europeans - - - -	482	500
Total - - -	1,299	798

Net increase, 501.

XII.—Ecclesiastical.

There are seven European Churches in the Colony, viz.:—

Wesleyan Methodist - - -	2
Church of England - - -	2
Roman Catholic - - - -	2
Presbyterian - - - -	1

with an average attendance of about 600.

The statistics of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions are as follows:—

	Wesleyan Mission.	Roman Catholic.
Churches - - - - - -	961	10
Other preaching places - - - -	361	61
Training institutions - - - - -	2	9
European missionaries - - - -	10	15
European sisters - - - - -	—	13
Native ministers - - - - -	66	—
Catechists - - - - - -	41	—
Native teachers - - - - -	1,016	143
Local preachers - - - - -	1,889	—
Class leaders - - - - - -	3,206	—
Church members, European and native - -	28,147	—
On trial for membership - - - -	4,112	—
Communicants - - - - -	13	—
Catechumens - - - - -	3,069	—
Adherents - - - - - -	—	9,624
Attendants on public worship - - - -	104,585	—

Fiji.

XIII.—Education.

There are three primary schools for Europeans, viz.:—

	Average Attendance.
Roman Catholic school, Suva - -	75
Suva common school - -	103
Levuka common school - -	73

The expenditure of the two common schools for the year was 1,232*l.*, of which 538*l.* was contributed by Government.

The Yanawai Technical School, for the instruction of native youths in the ordinary branches of education and in agricultural and industrial pursuits, was maintained during the year at a net cost to Government of 408*l.* There were 64 students in residence.

The following are the statistics of the mission schools:—

Native Schools conducted by the Wesleyan Mission.

Day schools - - - - - -	1,824
„ teachers - - - - - -	2,517
„ scholars - - - - - -	41,077
Sunday schools - - - - -	1,583
„ teachers - - - - -	2,610
„ scholars - - - - -	42,807

Statistics relating to the native schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission have not been received. There is one school in Suva, conducted by European sisters and two male teachers, for the instruction of natives of the New Hebrides Group and others, with an average attendance of 63.

XIV.—Publications.

The following is a list of the newspapers published in the Colony, with their reputed circulation and published price, viz.:—

"Fiji Times," published at Suva twice weekly, 600, 6*d.* each.

"Polynesian Gazette," published weekly at Levuka, 500, 6*d.* each.

"Namata," Fijian newspaper, published monthly by Government, 300, free.

"Fiji Royal Gazette," about 70 times a year, 175, 1*s.* each.

XV.—Trade and Commerce.

Total Trade.

The following statement shows the total value of the import and export trade of the Colony for each of the past four years:—

TOTAL VALUE OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF THE COLONY.

Value of the Total Imports and Exports of the Colony, distinguishing between Produce raised in the Colony and Produce imported for Exportation.

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Imports:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
For use in the Colony -	294,584 18 1	208,955 5 7	177,587 6 0	175,155 19 5
*Produce imported for exportation - -	6,445 15 4	21,673 13 2	10,484 0 6	8,065 16 9
Total - -	301,030 13 5	230,628 18 9	188,071 6 6	183,221 16 2
Exports:—				
Produce raised in the Colony - - -	320,304 5 2	261,822 14 0	270,611 9 3	368,912 7 5
Imported produce exported - - -	6,445 15 4	21,673 13 2	10,468 17 6	8,065 16 9
Total - -	326,750 0 6	283,496 7 2	281,080 6 9	376,978 4 2
Total of Imports and Exports	627,780 13 11	514,125 5 11	469,151 13 3	560,200 0 4

* This is South Sea Island produce.

The total trade of the Colony with different countries is shown in the following statement :—

TOTAL TRADE OF THE COLONY WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Return showing the Total Value of Imports into Fiji from the different Countries for the Year ending 31st December 1888.

Country.	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Futuna - - -	—	361 0 0	361 0 0
Germany - - -	2 3 6	—	2 3 6
India - - -	1,710 5 0	68 13 10	1,778 18 10
Line Islands - -	—	190 0 0	190 0 0
New Britain - -	5 2 0	3,288 0 0	3,293 2 0
New Caledonia - -	74 8 5	97 10 1	171 18 6
New Hebrides - -	98 14 0	27 16 6	126 10 6
New South Wales -	87,325 8 1	26,856 18 1	114,182 6 2
New Zealand - -	23,725 9 1	15,137 2 4	38,862 11 5
Samoa - - -	41 19 9	2,025 16 0	2,067 15 9
Solomon Islands - -	192 4 6	19 6 8	211 11 2
Tonga - - -	46 14 8	893 14 9	940 9 5
United Kingdom - -	43 0 6	—	43 0 6
United States - -	21 10 0	—	21 10 0
Victoria - - -	12,880 0 5	6,497 10 8	19,377 11 1
Wallis Island - -	77 18 10	1,513 8 6	1,591 7 4
Totals - -	126,244 18 9	56,976 17 5	183,221 16 2

FIJI.

Return showing the Value of Exports to the several Countries for the Year ending 31*st December* 1888.

Country.	Value.
	£ s. d.
Futuna - - - - -	2 8 0
New Caledonia - - - - -	27 4 0
New South Wales - - - - -	54,173 0 11
New Zealand - - - - - -	178,149 10 8
Portugal - - - - - -	22,311 4 1
Samoa - - - - - -	104 18 0
Solomon Islands - - - - -	36 9 9
Spain - - - - - - -	12,383 3 0
Tonga - - - - - -	626 19 4
United Kingdom - - - - -	9 18 7
Victoria - - - - - -	109,114 0 8
Wallis Island - - - - -	39 7 2
Totals - - -	376,978 4 2

Return showing the Total Trade of the Colony of Fiji with the undermentioned Countries for the Year ending 31*st December* 1888.

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales - -	114,182 6 2	54,173 0 11	168,355 7 1
New Zealand - - -	38,862 11 5	178,149 10 8	217,012 2 1
Tonga - - - -	940 9 5	626 19 4	1,567 8 9
United Kingdom - - -	43 0 6	9 18 7	52 19 1
United States - - -	21 10 0	—	21 10 0
Victoria - - -	19,377 11 1	109,114 0 8	128,491 1 9
Totals - - -	173,427 8 7	342,073 10 2	515,500 18 9

The division of the trade of the Colony between British Possessions and foreign countries was during the past four years as follows:—

Total Value of Imports from British Possessions, Polynesian Islands, and other Countries.

—	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From British Possessions -	289,737 14 7	206,182 18 6	174,547 3 8	174,244 8 0
From Polynesian Islands -	7,290 1 3	22,663 15 1	10,288 17 7	8,781 16 2
From other Countries -	4,002 17 7	1,782 5 2	3,235 5 3	195 12 0
Total - -	301,030 13 5	230,628 18 9	188,071 6 6	183,221 16 2

Value of Total Exports to British Possessions and to other Countries respectively.

—	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Exported to British Possessions - - - -	288,905 10 6	238,921 9 8	268,554 4 8	314,446 10 10
Exported to other Countries	37,844 10 0	44,574 17 6	12,526 2 1	35,531 13 4
Total - -	326,750 0 6	283,496 7 2	281,080 6 9	376,978 4 2

The accounts of imports and exports are exclusive of specie and bullion.

Imports and exports have respectively formed the following proportions of the total trade of the Colony during the years mentioned, viz.:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1885 - - - -	47·95	52·04
1886 - - - -	44·85	55·14
1887 - - - -	40·08	59·91
1888 - - - -	32·70	67·30

Imports.

The value of imports during the year is less than in any year since 1879. The difference between the value of imports for use in the Colony in the year 1888 and in the year 1887 amounts, however, to only 2,321*l.*, the principal decrease being in the item "machinery." The cause of the decrease from previous years is explained in the report of the Blue Book for last year (*see* C.—5249.–37).

Fiji.

The value of the principal articles of import for each of the past four years is shown in the following table:—

Nature of Import.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	2,023	1,663	1,363	1,160
2. Bags and sugar mats	2,272	3,911	4,749	4,961
3. Beer	5,866	5,062	3,891	2,948
4. Boots and shoes	4,368	3,282	4,010	2,980
5. Breadstuffs and biscuits	12,240	14,868	10,879	10,144
6. Butter	3,305	2,582	2,281	1,453
7. Cordage	1,198	1,326	980	1,532
8. Cigars	633	1,021	582	664
9. Coals	11,644	9,173	9,657	5,611
10. Doors and sashes	479	224	188	123
11. Drapery	45,879	40,228	40,574	48,075
12. Drugs	3,840	2,530	2,088	1,863
13. Fish	3,568	2,491	1,758	1,613
14. Fruits, bottled and dried	970	805	634	522
15. Galvanised iron and goods	2,927	2,741	1,539	1,854
16. Glassware and crockery	2,403	2,039	1,855	1,631
17. Hardware	32,757	21,535	16,519	12,957
18. Iron, bar, rod	417	491	499	404
19. Iron, rails and pipes	10,591	2,248	229	755
20. Jams and jellies	861	696	519	473
21. Jewellery	1,572	1,019	971	883
22. Live stock	5,346	4,537	3,591	4,000
23. Machinery	53,566	7,732	9,613	8,112
24. Meats	13,352	11,199	6,733	8,282
25. Musical instruments	631	771	498	547
26. Oils	5,572	5,150	5,468	5,280
27. Pickles and oilstores	3,402	2,661	2,486	1,734
28. Paints	1,077	1,030	1,174	1,062
29. Produce	4,474	5,174	5,877	5,868
30. Rice	11,307	9,972	7,951	8,298
31. Ship chandlery	1,870	1,420	1,849	2,039
32. Soap	2,344	1,765	1,715	1,767
33. Spirits	3,617	3,691	3,260	2,854
34. Stationery	4,485	2,640	2,427	2,148
35. Sugar	766	158	26	27
36. Tea	1,595	1,715	1,149	441
37. Timber	8,314	6,807	3,032	2,839
38. Tobacco	1,578	1,845	904	981
39. Vegetables and green fruits	2,969	2,514	1,856	2,000
40. Wines	2,221	1,468	987	716
41. Woodenware and furniture	4,564	3,140	2,257	2,964
42. Other imports	19,233	34,218	19,453	18,657
Total	301,031	230,629	188,071	183,222

Customs Duties.

The ratio which the revenue from import duties bears to the total value of imports has during each of the past four years been as follows:—

	Per cent.
1885 - - - - -	10·49
1886 - - - - -	12·72
1887 - - - - -	13·05
1888 - - - - -	13·41

The increase is owing more to the reduced value of machinery and other duty-free goods imported than to any actual alteration in the rate of Customs duties.

Exports.

The value of exports is greater than in any year since the foundation of the Colony.

The total value of exports for each of the past four years is given at—

	£
1885 - - - - -	326,750
1886 - - - - -	283,496
1887 - - - - -	281,080
1888 - - - - -	376,978

If, however, the prices on which the value of exports were computed for the year 1885 had been the same as in the subsequent three years, the value of exports for that year would have been only 267,935*l.* It may therefore be said that the value of exports for the year 1888 shows an increase over that of each of the previous three years by the following amounts respectively —

——	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£
Increase in value of exports for year 1888 over that of the previous three years - - - - -	109,043	93,482	95,898

The ratio which the public expenditure has borne to the exports in each of the past four years has been as follows:—

Year 1885 - - - -	1 to 3·5
„ 1886 - - - -	1 to 3·6
„ 1887 - - - -	1 to 3·8
„ 1888 - - - -	1 to 6·4

FIJI.

The following table shows in respect of the past four years the principal articles of export, with the respective quantities and values :—

Table showing the Principal Articles of Export, with their Quantities and Values, Years 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888.

Article.		1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Sugar	Tons	10,586	11,716	12,831	16,916
	Value, £	211,729	187,456	205,294	270,649
Copra (including cocoanuts)	Tons	5,235	5,217	1,957	4,219
	Value, £	64,300	49,564	12,356	41,065
Fruit, dried and preserved	Cases	86	544	546	211
Bananas	Bunches	277,973	261,741	359,294	517,666
„ and pineapples	Cases	5,095	4,988	6,105	4,668
	Value, £	23,991	23,059	31,026	42,448
Cotton	Tons	44	52	24	3½
	Value, £	5,312	6,125	2,894	342
Beche-de-mer	Tons	20 7/20	70 1/10	96 3/10	62
	Value, £	1,222	3,505	4,812	3,100
Maize	Bushels	15,660	16,228	15,288	12,968
	Value, £	3,132	2,434	2,293	1,945
Molasses	Gallons	151,264	120,180	36,790	79,497
	Value, £	2,363	751	230	497
Peanuts	Tons	137	160	331	346
	Value, £	2,552	3,003	6,178	6,460
Coir fibre	Tons	66	45	44	13
	Value, £	728	455	347	128
Coffee	Lbs.	85,239	7,426	10,799	956
	Value, £	2,131	186	270	24
Spirits, Colonial distilled	Gallons	1,082	338 3/10	4,285	8,159
	Value, £	189	59	750	1,428
Tea	Lbs.	968	220	20,950	29,253
	Value, £	97	22	2,095	2,950
Cocoanut, desiccated	Lbs.	—	—	—	19,426
	Value, £	—	—	—	497
Tortoiseshell	Lbs.	1,140	994	1,302	1,145
	Value, £	598	522	684	601
Wool	Lbs.	16,653	15,698	17,403	22,920
	Value, £	709	654	725	956

The minor articles of export not mentioned in the foregoing return comprise:—Arrowroot, bark, beans, bones, candlenuts, cardamons, chillies, cigars, cinchona, curiosities, fungus, gum, hair (angora), herbs, hides, limes, limejuice, mats, pearl-shell, plants and seeds, sandalwood, sharkfins, sinnet, skins, tallow, timber, tobacco, turtles, yams, and yagona (*Macra Piper Mythisticum*).

It appears from an examination of the foregoing table that of the principal items of export three—viz., cotton, coir fibre, and coffee—are in a languishing condition and do not any longer rank as principal exports.

It is, however, hoped that cotton-planting, for which many parts of the Colony are eminently suited, and which has declined from

other than primary causes, may shortly revive. An almost unlimited quantity of coir fibre could be produced from the husks of the cocoanuts grown in the Colony, but its great bulk when in an unmanufactured condition prevents its export on conditions favourable to the producer. The coffee plantations, which some ten years ago were attacked by the coffee-leaf disease, have not been further cultivated.

The following exports show a distinct and continued increase in volume, viz.:—sugar, green fruit, peanuts, Colonial distilled spirit, tea, and wool.

The items "desiccated cocoanut" (497*l.*), "cardamons" (97*l.*), and "cinchona" (13*l.*) appear for the first time on the export list. Copra (the dried kernel of the cocoanut), which before the introduction of the large sugar mills was the principal export of the Colony, has of late years been produced under unfavourable conditions, owing in the first place to the injury inflicted on the crop by the hurricane of the year 1886, and, secondly, to the low prices for vegetable oils recently prevailing in the European markets. It is hardly conceivable, however, that a highly nutritious and delicate food product like the cocoanut, invaluable in so many departments of domestic and industrial economy, should for any length of time fail to command the position to which it is naturally entitled.

During the past year over eight tons of desiccated granulated cocoanut have been produced in and exported from the Colony. This article can be put to a great variety of culinary purposes, but it has not yet come into such universal use as to make the demand for it nearly equal to the possible supply.

The export of maize from the Colony has remained almost stationary for the past few years, but the local consumption has greatly increased. There are signs, however, that increased attention is being given to this product. Fresh seed has been imported from the Australian Colonies, and as it is possible in this country to obtain even three crops a year, each as heavy as any of the annual crops of the Australian Colonies, there is no reason why the cultivation of maize should not be largely extended.

XVI.—NAVIGATION.

The total number and tonnage of merchant vessels entering from abroad at the two ports of entry in the Colony during each of the past four years is as under :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
1885 - - -	49	33,805	75	20,251	124	54,056
1886 - - -	60	34,781	58	19,351	118	54,132
1887 - - -	66	33,231	53	13,671	119	46,902
1888 - - -	71	39,750	35	9,829	106	49,579

FIJI.

The nationality of these vessels is shown below :—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Danish.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1885 - - - -	106	47,554	5	1,347	7	3,189	1	361
1886 - - - -	106	48,289	2	576	10	5,267	—	—
1887 - - -	105	41,378	—	—	7	2,680	—	—
1888 - - - -	99	46,401	—	—	3	1,077	—	—

(*Continued.*)

Year.	Norwegian.		Tongan.		Samoan.		Bolivian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1885 - - - -	2	1,099	1	48	1	17	1	441
1886 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1887 - - - -	4	2,737	3	107	—	—	—	—
1888 - - - -	4	2,101	—	—	—	—	—	—

XVII.—AGRICULTURE.

The estimated acreage of the inhabited islands of the Colony is 4,953,920.

The estimated acreage under cultivation by Europeans is 36,775. That acreage is under crop as follows :—

	Acres.
Arrowroot - - - -	5½
Bananas - - - - -	2,311½
Cotton - - - - -	175
Coffee - - - - -	24½
Cocoanuts - - - -	19,023½
Maize - - - - -	357
Tea - - - - -	325
Sugar cane - - - -	13,853½
Tobacco - - - - -	18½
Tapioca - - - - -	19
Yams - - - - -	146½
Other produce - - -	516
Total - -	36,775½

Labour.

There are three classes of agricultural labourers, viz. :— East Indian coolies, Polynesians, and native Fijians.

East Indian coolies are imported annually on the requisition of employers. The importer pays the cost of introduction, which may be said to average about 21*l.* per adult. Coolies are indentured to employers for five years, but have to remain other five years in the Colony before being entitled to a free return passage, which is provided out of the public funds. If Indians elect to remain in the Colony after the expiration of their ten years' residence they are entitled to commute their return passage.

The wages paid to them on plantations is as follows :—

Men, per task, 1*s.*, without rations.
Women, do., 9*d.*, do.
With rations, do., 8*d.*

Polynesians are imported by employers under Government supervision. Introducer pays the cost of introduction and of return passage, the former usually amounting to 12*l.* and the latter to 5*l.* or 6*l.* per caput. The Polynesian is indentured for three years, and during that period is usually paid wages at the rate of 3*l.* to 5*l.* per annum with clothing and rations. The Polynesian is free to return home at the expiration of his indenture, or to remain in the Colony so long as he chooses and return home with any vessel that may be returning immigrants. Polynesians so remaining in the Colony may be hired by the month or by the year. The rate of wages under these circumstances averages from 10*l.* to 12*l.* per annum with rations. Polynesian labourers are, from their docility, preferred on small estates, but it is doubtful if they be cheaper labourers than the Indians.

Fijian labourers may be hired within their home districts or proclaimed adjacencies thereto for any term not exceeding one month. Natives may be employed on time or task work beyond their home district for a longer term than one month (agreements are usually for a year) by agreement made before the stipendiary magistrate of their district, before whom they have to be paid off on the completion of their agreement. The wages paid to Fijians is usually 8*d.* per task with rations, or, if employed on time work, from 5*l.* to 8*l.* per annum. In addition to wages the employer has to pay the commutation of his employes' taxes at the rate of 2*s.* per mensem.

The wages paid to European overseers on plantations ranges from 75*l.* to 150*l.* per annum ; to European ploughmen, 52*l.* to 75*l.* Artizans are paid at the rate of from 12*s.* to 16*s.* per diem.

Prices.

The average retail price of the principal articles of consumption is as follows :—

	s.	*d.*
Flour, per 56 lbs. - - -	8	0
Bread, per 2 lb. loaf - - -	0	6

	s.	d.
Meat, per lb. - - - -	0	8
Butter, fresh, per lb. - - -	2	0
„ salt „ - - -	1	6
Cheese, per lb. - - - -	1	6
Milk, per quart - - - -	0	4
Bacon, per lb. - - - -	1	4
Ham „ - - - -	1	6
Eggs, per doz. - - - -	2	6
Potatoes, per cwt. - -	8s. to 16	0
Rice „ - - -	28	0
„ Coolie „ - - -	16	0
Tea, Fijian, per lb. - - -	2	0
„ imported „ - - -	2	0
Coffee, Fijian „ - - -	1	6
„ imported „ - - -	1	6
Sugar, per lb. - - -	2d. to 0	4
Tobacco, Fijian leaf, per lb. - -	1s. to 1	6
„ „ manufactured - -	4	6
„ imported - - -	6	0
Cigars, Fijian, per 100 - - -	10	0
„ imported „ 12s. and upwards.		
Soap, blue mottled, per cwt. - -	34	0
„ yellow „ - -	25	0
Kerosene, per gal. - - -	2	3
Salt, per cwt. - - - -	10	0
Spirits, draught, per gal. - - -	24	0
„ case - - -	52s. to 56	0
Beer, per doz. - - - -	12	6
Oatmeal, per lb. - - - -	0	6
Arrowroot „ - - - -	0	6
Cornflour „ - - -	1	0
Preserved meats, per lb. - - -	0	9
Salt beef, per 100 lbs. - - -	32	0
Yams, per cwt. - - -	5s. to 10	0
Kumalos „ - - -	3s. to 6	0
Onions, per lb. - - - -	0	4

Live Stock.

The returns of live stock in the Colony at the end of the year 1888 give the following figures: —

Horses - - - - -	684
Cattle - - - - -	6,754
Sheep - - - - -	6,996
Angora goats - - - -	5,284
Pigs (European bred only) - -	1,903

Machinery.

The quantity of machinery is returned as follows :—

Steam engines - - - -	40
Sugar mills - - - - -	15
Cotton gins - - - -	17
Fibre machines - - - -	3
Other machines - - - -	7

Land.

The total acreage of land registered as granted to Europeans up to the end of the year 1888 is 405,538 acres, 4 roods, 18·1 perches.

XVIII.—CRIME.

The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the past four years :—

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
The number of offences reported to the police	—	—	—	—
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates	6,997	11,629	8,044	6,443
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	293	312	501	266
2. For prædial larceny - - -	168	244	223	172
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	63	174	73	115
4. For other offences - - -	4,733	8,578	5,424	4,316
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against the person -	15	57	18	30
2. For prædial larceny - - -	—	3	—	9
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	3	12	11	8
4. For other offences - - -	—	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,616	2,155	1,759	1,514
2. In the superior courts - - -	9	24	17	31

FIJI.

The criminal statistics of the Colony were most materially swollen by the influx of the East Indian immigrants, and this fact become so palpable in the year 1886 that legislation had to be particularly directed towards the repression of offences on the part of that portion of the community. The effect of this is seen in the great decrease in the number of offences within the past two years as shown in the foregoing table.

XIX.—PRISONS.

The following statistics are given in respect of the year 1888. For the purpose of comparison the figures for the previous year are also given.

1888.	Men.	Women.	Infants.	Total.	Total for Year 1887.
Number of persons committed in 1888 for debt - - -	1	—	—	1	Nil.
In safe custody till trial or for want of security - -	125	1	—	126	99
For purposes of penal imprisonment - - - -	809	92	—	901	1,279
Total - - -	935	93	—	1,028	1,378

The daily average number in prison throughout the year was :—

	1888.	1887.
Men - - - -	190·65	223·12
Women - - - -	9·18	21·100
Juveniles - - - -	Nil.	0·25
Total - -	199·83	244·37

There were six deaths of prisoners during the year (including three executions). The total cost of the prisons of the Colony during the year was 2,317*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

The number of prisoners committed and the number in confinement during the year were, it will be seen from the foregoing figures, considerably less than in the previous year.

XX.—Public Health.

The general health of the Colony throughout the twelve months was very good, but towards the close of the year there were indications that diseases of the influenza type, from which for about two years the native community had been comparatively free, were again becoming prevalent.

The health of the European community was excellent. In Suva, with a population of about 700 Europeans, there were but six deaths. Of these, three were of infants, one was from the shipping, a non-resident, and of the remaining two deaths, which were of *bonâ fide* adult residents, one was from old age.

XXI.—Public Hospitals.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
At the beginning of the year there were in hospital - - - -	33	13	46
Admitted during the year - -	204	67	271
Total - -	237	80	317

Discharges were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cured - - - - -	135	56	191
Relieved - - - -	33	7	40
Not improved - - - -	6	2	8
Deaths - - - - -	33	7	40
Total - -	207	72	279

Dismissed or absconded - - - 8

Remaining in hospital 31st December 1888 - 30

The classes of patients treated were as follows:—

Class.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths.
			Per. cent.
Fijians - - - - -	148	4	2·7
Melanesians - - - -	82	28	34·14
Indians - - - -	69	5	7·24
Europeans - - - -	12	3	25·0
Half-castes and miscellaneous - -	6	0	0
Total - -	317	40	12·61

A cottage hospital has been opened in Levuka under the management of a committee of citizens. The institution is supported by private subscriptions and from the fees of patients. The only contribution from public funds is in the shape of the gratuitous services of the District Medical Officer.

XXII.—Lunatic Asylum.

Four patients were admitted to the public lunatic asylum during the year. The daily average number of patients was 7·66. Three patients were discharged during the year and one died.

XXIII.—Meteorological Observations.

The following returns are supplied by the Government meteorological observer :—

STATION:—SUVA.

ht = 4 ft. 0 in. hr = 14 ft. 0 in.

Months.	Amount of Cloud.	Rainfall.			Weather. No. of Days of							Wind. No. of Observations of								
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Cloudy.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January -	3	6·41	1·78	3rd	19	—	—	17	8	23	0	9	6	5	5	1	4	0	1	0
February -	4	10·16	3·53	„	23	—	—	0	1	28	0	0	3	11	12	1	0	1	1	0
March - -	4	13·43	1·98	28th	22	—	—	18	8	23	1	2	9	8	9	3	0	0	0	0
April - -	2	20·18	3·42	10th	24	—	—	6	3	27	0	1	4	11	11	1	0	2	0	0
May - -	3	14·48	9·05	1st	22	—	—	0	2	28	0	2	1	6	11	2	2	2	5	0
June - -	2	6·18	1·52	„	22	—	—	0	2	28	0	0	5	8	14	2	0	0	1	0
July - -	7	6·06	1·28	25th	25	—	—	0	2	29	0	3	4	8	10	6	0	0	0	0
August - -	6	7·43	1·43	10th	21	—	—	0	4	27	0	1	2	7	20	1	0	0	0	0
September -	7	7·62	1·86	9th	24	—	—	1	0	30	0	1	1	10	14	4	0	0	0	0
October -	7	13·57	4·16	13th	26	—	—	3	0	31	0	1	6	8	14	1	0	0	1	0
November -	5	3·09	1·04	27th	17	—	—	3	1	29	0	2	1	7	15	5	0	0	0	0
December -	3	3·84	0·59	8th	19	—	—	0	11	20	0	0	1	12	18	0	0	0	0	0
Year -	—	112·45	—	—	264	—	—	48	42	303	0	24	43	101	153	27	6	5	9	0

STATION.—SUVA.

$\lambda = 178^\circ\ 26'\ 0''$. E $\varphi = 18^\circ\ 8'\ 0''$. H. = 10 feet.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							—
		Mean.	Means of		Absolute Min. and Max.				
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.	
January - - -	29·963	84	75	87	73	5th, 6th, 7th, 28th	90	15th, 16th, 24th, 25th	Dew point only computed.
February - - -	29·893	81	75	85	71	7th	88	1st, 2nd	
March - - -	29·948	80	75	86	69	6th	92	12th	
April - - - -	29·980	81	76	85	71	5th	90	16th	
May - - - -	30·016	79	75	83	69	31st	87	7th	
June - - - -	30·068	78	70	81	64	28th	86	20th	
July - - - -	30·074	74	72	79	63	22nd	87	16th	
August - - -	30·124	74	69	79	63	2nd	85	22nd	
September - - -	30·118	74	68	78	64	28th, 29th	86	14th	
October - - -	30·053	77	72	80	66	2nd	86	18th, 23rd	
November - - -	30·051	78	72	82	68	23rd, 24th	90	12th, 30th	
December - - -	29·935	82	74	85	71	8th	90	1st, 2nd	
Year - - -	30·028	79	73	80	68	—	89	—	

The foregoing returns are in respect of Suva, but while the observations of temperature may be taken as representative of the coast-line of the whole group, the rainfall represents only the local experience. In some portions of the group the rainfall from year to year does not exceed one half of the quantity mentioned in these returns, while in some other portions of the Colony the annual rainfall generally exceeds that experienced in Suva by about 40 per cent.

J. STEWART,
for the Colonial Secretary.

31st July 1889.

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No. 99.

GAMBIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 61.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
June 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.–29.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turk's and Caicos Islands	1889

No. 99.

GAMBIA.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 61.)

Administrator CARTER to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Bathurst,
May 2, 1890

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book returns of this Colony for the year 1889, and beg to offer the following remarks thereon :—

Taxes.

There has been no alteration in the tariff as reported in 1888.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated revenue amounted to 22,484*l.*, and that actually collected to 26,281*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, showing an excess of 3,797*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

There were increases under the following heads, viz. :—

Head of Estimate.	Amount estimated.	Amount collected.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	18,740 0 0	22,198 16 6	3,458 16 6
Rents, exclusive of land	635 0 0	671 15 5	36 15 5
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	214 0 0	312 0 9	98 0 9
Land revenue	520 0 0	537 14 5	17 14 5
Miscellaneous receipts	200 0 0	495 2 10	295 2 10
Special receipts	—	6 19 4	6 19 4
Fees of office	290 0 0	353 10 2	63 10 2
Total	20,599 0 0	24,575 19 5	3,976 19 5

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GAMBIA.

The decreases, I am glad to say, only amounted to 179*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, and are represented as follows:—

Head of Estimate.	Amount estimated.	Amount collected.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Licenses	630 0 0	502 0 0	128 0 0
Reimbursements in aid	140 0 0	136 4 10	3 15 2
Postal revenue	580 0 0	551 10 6	28 9 6
Auction duty	10 0 0	—	10 0 0
Interest	100 0 0	97 10 0	2 10 0
Excise	425 0 0	418 5 1	6 14 11
Total	1,885 0 0	1,705 10 5	179 9 7

It will be observed that there is a large increase under the head of Customs, the principal items being:—

	£	s.	d.
Ad valorem duty	524	9	2
Sugar	103	12	5
Cola nuts	1,829	9	10
Guns and pistols	84	16	0
Ground nuts	1,359	8	6

The only item showing a decrease which calls for remark is that of spirit licenses, these issues having fallen off to the extent of 128*l.*, a loss which is not altogether to be deplored.

The under-mentioned table exhibits a comparison between the revenues of 1888 and 1889, inclusive of arrears:—

Head of Estimate.	1888.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	17,227 16 9	22,198 16 6	4,970 19 9	—
Excise	478 16 9	418 5 1	—	60 11 8
Licenses	558 0 0	502 0 0	—	56 0 0
Rents, exclusive of land	707 2 7	671 15 5	—	35 7 2
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	214 17 8	312 0 9	97 3 1	—
Land revenue	474 7 6	537 14 5	63 6 11	—
Fees of office	191 5 1	353 10 2	162 5 1	—
Miscellaneous receipts	249 8 10	495 2 10	245 14 0	—
Reimbursements in aid	184 6 2	136 4 10	—	48 1 4
Postal revenue	599 5 7	551 10 6	—	47 15 1
Interest	97 5 10	97 10 0	0 4 2	—
Auction duty	0 12 3	—	—	0 12 3
Special receipts	2 9 5	6 19 4	4 9 11	—
Total	20,985 14 5	26,281 9 10	5,544 2 11	248 7 6

It will be observed from the foregoing that, while the increases total the large sum of 5,544*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, the decreases only amount to 248*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* This satisfactory result is mainly owing to a healthy revival of the ground nut industry, consequent upon an absence of native complications in the riverain territories almost unique in the history of the Gambia. The export of this produce in 1888 amounted to 9,744 tons, while that for the year under review amounted to 19,078 tons.

The arrears of revenue brought to account in 1889 amounted to 36*l.* 11*s.* 6*d*, as against 74*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for the year 1889 amounted to 20,574*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and the sum actually disbursed to 21,566*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, showing an excess expenditure of 992*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* This excess is principally due to a sum of 514*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* in respect of the defalcations of the late Postmaster, erroneously brought to account as repayment of deposits, having been carried to the general account as expenditure under "Miscellaneous Services," and an advance of 126*l.* 15*s.* to the Chief of Baddiboo having been charged to "Transport" by authority of the Secretary of State.

The readjustment of the money order account between Gambia and the United Kingdom likewise charged the heading of Post Office, exclusive of Establishments, with a sum of 369*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, for which there was no provision in the estimates. The undermentioned table gives a comparison between the expenditure of 1888 and 1889:—

Head of Estimate.	Amount, 1888.	Amount, 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	10,786 18 3	10,027 2 3	—	759 16 0
Salaries, provisional and temporary.	1,488 11 1	673 17 8	—	814 13 5
Allowances	512 8 10	976 15 4	464 6 6	—
Official contract	115 19 6	96 9 9	—	19 9 9
Pensions, &c.	1,397 2 2	1,384 2 2	—	13 0 0
Services, exclusive of Establishments.				
Administration of justice	126 18 11	116 14 9	—	10 4 2
Ecclesiastical	21 2 7	20 0 0	—	1 2 7
Education	408 6 10	240 11 6	—	167 15 4
Hospitals	462 4 8	351 0 7	—	111 4 1
Police and gaols	521 11 9	763 7 7	241 15 10	—
Charitable allowances	82 11 6	84 0 1	1 8 7	—
Aborigines	657 15 10	651 0 4	—	6 15 6
Rent	5 4 0	4 8 0	—	0 16 0
Transport	842 7 1	798 13 4	—	43 13 9
Conveyance of mails	0 1 0	0 8 0	0 7 0	—

Head of Estimate.	Amount, 1888.	Amount, 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Works and buildings -	1,252 9 1	1,626 3 0	373 13 11	—
Roads, streets, and bridges -	327 15 5	898 15 6	571 0 1	—
Drawbacks and refunds -	140 10 7	84 3 9	—	56 6 10
Miscellaneous services -	1,221 2 1	1,337 18 4	116 16 3	—
Revenue services - -	334 3 8	235 1 9	—	99 1 11
Special services - -	557 12 0	656 4 3	98 12 3	—
Treasury and Post Office -	71 17 6	539 10 6	467 13 0	—
Total - - -	21,334 14 4	21,566 8 5	2,235 13 5	2,103 19 4

The arrears of expenditure appertaining to 1887, and paid in 1888, amounted to 2,984*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and those for 1888, paid in 1889, to 1,314*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The statement of assets and liabilities on the 31st December 1889 shows a balance in favour of the Colony of 6,097*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with 217*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* in 1888, thus showing a marked and gratifying advance in material prosperity which there is every hope will be maintained.

Public Debt.

None.

Military Expenditure.

The expenditure under this head is confined to the maintenance of a local police force, numbering about 110 non-commissioned officers and men, whose annual cost may be stated at 4,700*l.*

The police are furnished with Martini-Henry rifles and three 7-pounder M.L. guns.

Public Works.

There was no exceptional outlay on public works during the year. The amount estimated (inclusive of roads, streets, and bridges) was placed at 2,622*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure totalled 2,524*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1 of 1889.—"An Ordinance to authorise the reception into " and detention in the Colony of the Gambia of certain political " prisoners expected to arrive shortly from Sierra Leone."

No. 2.—"An Ordinance to provide for the service of the " Colony of the Gambia for the year 1889."

No. 3.—"An Ordinance declaring that all laws in force in the " Settlement of the Gambia anterior to its erection into an inde- " pendent Colony should continue in force therein, and providing " for their application, and also for the progress of legislation " depending in the Legislative Council of the said Colony."

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to alter the style of the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of the Settlement on the River Gambia."

No. 5.—"An Ordinance to extend the time within which an Ordinance intituled 'An Ordinance to impose additional Customs Duties' shall continue in force."

No. 6.—"An Ordinance to amend 'The Court Fees Ordinance, 1878.'"

No. 7.—"An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1888 beyond the expenditure authorised by law."

No. 8.—"An Ordinance declaring that all Laws in force in the Settlement on the Gambia anterior to its erection into an independent Colony should continue in force, and providing for their application."

No. 9.—"An Ordinance to amend 'The Court Fees Ordinance, 1878,' Amendment Ordinance 1889."

No. 10.—"An Ordinance to fix the vacation of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia."

No. 11.—"An Ordinance to provide for the payment of expenses arising out of the trial under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts of British subjects who are natives of, or residents in, the Colony of the Gambia."

No. 12.—"An Ordinance to exclude Mohammedans validly married according to their own religious rites from the operation of sections 4 and 5 of the 'Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885.'"

No. 13.—"An Ordinance to provide for the addition of perjury to the list of crimes triable by special jurors in the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia."

No. 14.—"An Ordinance to provide for the costs of actions brought in the Supreme Court which could have been commenced in the Court of Requests."

No. 15.—"An Ordinance to further extend the time within which an Ordinance intituled 'An Ordinance to impose additional Customs Duties' shall continue in force."

Executive and Legislative Councils.

The members of both Councils remain the same as detailed for 1888.

Civil Establishment.

The following official changes took place during the year:—

The Administrator proceeded on leave of absence in June, and Mr. C. B. Mitford, the Treasurer, held the acting appointment until the return of the Administrator in the following November.

Mr. Mitford, having spent the requisite term in the Colony, went to England in December on six months' leave.

Mr. James Topp, the Postmaster, resigned his office in August, and Mr. Finden, the Manager of British Combo, was appointed to act until other arrangements could be made, Sergeant Thomas, of the police force, taking Mr. Finden's place at British Combo.

GAMBIA.

Pensions.

The pension list was reduced to the extent of 15*l.* 5*s.* by the death of J. Eagleton. The annual charge on the Colony at present amounts to 1,364*l.* 6*s.*

Education.

Now that the Education Ordinance of 1882 (followed by the Amendment Ordinance of 1886) has had a fair trial it will be interesting to detail a few particulars in regard to past and present educational matters in the Colony.

Prior to 1883 a lump grant of 300*l.* per annum was distributed amongst the three Christian religious bodies in the then Settlement, but as it was rightly considered that such a system was not conducive to a healthy development of the schools, an Ordinance was introduced into the Legislature for the promotion and assistance of education, and the principle of payment by results established.

As an evidence of the very low standard of education then existing in the Gambia, it may be mentioned that on the first examination held by Mr. Cates in 1883 (in the unavoidable absence of the Inspector) the total earnings of the schools, which took advantage of the provisions of the Ordinance, amounted to 33*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Such a result could not be but depressing to the school managers, and it was evident that the scholastic system of the Gambia was in urgent need of reform.

The first regular inspection by Mr. Sunter, the Inspector, was made in 1885, and his report let in a flood of light on the management and discipline of the various schools in the Settlement then existing, and he was able to make suggestions towards the amendment of certain provisions in the Ordinance which were certainly a bar to progress, in view of the peculiar circumstances of the Gambia. In the Ordinance of 1882 it was provided that no school (with the exception of industrial schools) should receive a grant-in-aid in which school fees were not required from the parents or friends of the pupils, and in which such per-centage of those fees as may be accepted by the Board of Education as sufficient in each case, was not actually recovered, which per-centage was subsequently fixed at one half.

This rule bore with special severity on the Roman Catholics, who levied no school fees, and likewise was a check upon the other schools, as there had been always great difficulty in recovering payment from the parents, owing partly to poverty and partly to apathy, and failure to realise the benefits derivable from education. In the Amendment Ordinance, therefore, the sections dealing with school fees were repealed, and the question of payment made optional.

The only schools which presented themselves for examination under the provisions of the Ordinance in 1885 were those of the

Wesleyan body, but nevertheless, by permission, Mr. Sunter made an inspection of the Roman Catholic and Anglican schools. Attached to the former is a convent girls' school whose pupils, before the passing of the Education Ordinance, were taught in Joloff and French; in order, however, to secure the benefits of a Government grant-in-aid they were obliged to make a radical change in their *régime*, dismiss the French sisters, and procure a staff of English ones in their place.

Mr. Sunter placed the order of merit thus:—

Roman Catholic - - - -	1
Anglican - - - - -	2
Wesleyan - - - - -	3

and recommended the following grants to be given, although not properly falling within the provisions of the Ordinance:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Roman Catholic - - -	57	10	9
Anglican - - - -	24	13	0
Wesleyan - - - -	48	10	6
Total - - - -	130	14	3

The last-mentioned sum was divided amongst five Wesleyan schools, viz.:—Three in Bathurst, one at Barra Point, and one at McCarthy's Island.

Most of the schools at that period were badly appointed, and there was a great want of systematic arrangement and proper discipline apparent on all sides. Mr. Sunter, however, in the plainest terms called attention to the defective management, and pointed out the direction in which reforms were necessary to the successful working of the schools, in order that, at least, something approaching to the old monetary grant might be earned under the provisions of the Ordinance. Writing on this subject, Mr. Sunter remarked, "So long as the present state of things continues, I am "not disposed to think for one moment that grants-in-aid will ever "reach a high figure, however generously disposed Government "may be."

The Inspector's report was made on the 19th June 1885, and the grants recommended were for 1884. As it would have been useless holding another examination in the same year, Mr. Sunter suggested that the same amounts should be awarded for 1885 as those recommended for 1884, which suggestion was practically carried out.

Owing to irregularities in the dates of examinations and the absence of any definite fixture for the Gambia school year, the payments were somewhat erratic until 1888.

GAMBIA.

The following sums have, however, been paid to the various schools since 1883:—

Year.	Wesleyans.		Anglicans.		Roman Catholics.	
	Examinational Results.	Furniture, &c.	Examinational Results.	Furniture, &c.	Examinational Results.	Furniture, &c.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883 - - -	33 14 9	—	—	—	—	—
Merit grant -	65 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
1884 - - -	48 10 6	—	—	—	—	—
1884–5 - -	97 1 0	—	49 6 0	—	115 1 6	—
1886 - - -	25 10 3	—	10 18 6	—	45 11 3	92 12 1
1887 - - -	72 8 6	—	23 15 0	—	95 12 0	—
1888 - - -	49 12 6	22 8 4	37 9 0	—	107 1 6	—
1889 - - -	64 11 0	—	48 14 0	—	123 3 6	4 3 0
Totals -	459 8 6	22 8 4	170 2 6	—	486 9 9	96 15 1

From these figures it will be observed that the Wesleyans show somewhat fitful results, whereas the Anglicans and Roman Catholics show steady and, in the latter case, very marked progress, so much so that for the year 1888 and 1889 the old lump grant of 100*l.* has been exceeded.

It would appear from the foregoing table that the Wesleyans have received their grant for 1884 twice over, and steps have been taken to rectify this error.

I regret to say that the Roman Catholics are still the only body which devotes any attention to industrial training, and so far it is only the girls who have had advantages in this respect. At the convent school considerable stress is laid upon sewing in all its branches, and washing and ironing receive a proper share of attention. The Colony is in urgent need of mechanics of all kinds with some pretension to skill in the various handicrafts. At present incompetence reigns supreme, and there seems to be no desire amongst the artisan class to rise above the lamentable standard of efficiency which has been so far attained. In the Gambia higher wages are paid to mechanics than in any other part of West Africa, while, if anything, the quality of the work done is inferior.

Agriculture, except of the most primitive character, is still a sealed book to the average Gambian. Nature seems to be on the side of the native in her selection of the ground nut as the produce which best suits the soil, this cereal being grown with, I might say, fatal facility. It would appear that deep digging is inimical to the proper development of the plant, and so long as there is plenty of rain the nut seems to thrive best in the sandy surface soil which prevails more or less over the whole of the territories bordering on the river. It is well nigh hopeless under such circumstances to attempt to introduce new staples to an indolent and

apathetic race with no ambition, and so long as there is a market for the ground nut, the natives will certainly grow it in preference to any new product, though it may be demonstrated to them that double the profit could be derived from a change in some other direction. The great difficulty with the Gambia schools hitherto has been that there is no desire on the part of parents to educate their children, and when it becomes a question of payment of school fees, the lack of interest quickly developes into a determination to avoid an expense for which they see no counterbalancing advantage. I trust, however, from the success the Roman Catholics have undoubtedly had with their schools that a more liberal feeling will prevail, though up to the present the number on the registers and the average attendance show no general improvement, as the under-mentioned table will testify :—

Year.	No. on Register.		Total.	Average Attendance.
	Boys.	Girls.		
1885 - -	613	505	1,118	580
1886 - -	536	487	1,023	473
1887 - -	587	447	1,034	480
1888 - -	620	505	1,125	431
1889 - -	512	509	1,021	535

It is true that 1889 shows an increase as compared with 1888, but whether this improvement will be maintained remains to be seen. One gratifying feature in the examination for 1889 lay in the fact that tne Anglican school succeeded in recovering 26*l.* 11*s.* 10½*d.* in school fees out of a possible sum of 30*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, or over three fourths; the Wesleyans also show an improvement in this respect.

It is to be regretted that the Mohammedan schools in Bathurst have not yet placed themselves in a position to take advantage of the benefits of the Education Ordinance. Up to the present Arabic reading and writing are the only subjects taught in these hools; but, in obedience with the wishes of the Secretary of State, I have been in communication with the principal Mohammedans, in order to try and induce them to extend the subjects of instruction to English reading, writing and arithmetic, and I have great hopes of success. I understand that two schools are in process of formation, which, it is hoped, eventually will be able to receive a grant-in-aid from the Government.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports for the year amounted to 135,129*l.*, as compared with 98,925*l.* in 1888, and the exports to 167,598*l.*, as compared with 118,187*l.* in the previous year.

The annexed tables exhibit a comparison of the principal imports and exports received in 1889 and the year previous.

Imports.

Articles.	1889.	1888.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods	35,857*l.*	28,460*l.*	7,397*l.*	—
Tobacco	296,978 lbs.	232,132 lbs.	64,846 lbs.	—
Kola nuts	682,432 lbs.	409,735 lbs.	272,697 lbs.	—
Spirits of all kinds	40,108 galls.	26,096 galls.	14,012 galls.	—
Wines	16,912 galls.	15,421 galls.	1,491 galls.	—
Sugar	122,390 lbs.	92,228 lbs.	30,102 lbs.	—
Salt	691 tons	777 tons	—	86 tons
Fire-arms	1,735	497	1,238	—
Gunpowder	508 brls.	561 brls.	—	53 brls.
Rice	906 tons	1,001 tons.	—	95 tons.

Exports.

Articles.	1889.	1888.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	19,636 tons Value, 140,086*l.*	10,207 tons Value, 74,877*l.*	65,209*l.*	—
Hides	2,075*l.*	2,963*l.*	—	888*l.*
Rubber	55,548 lbs. Value, 3,470*l.*	48,834 lbs. Value, 3,277*l.*	193*l.*	—
Palm kernels	234 tons	162 tons	81 tons	—
Wax	2,292*l.*	2,606*l.*	—	314*l.*

Shipping.

The following notes in regard to shipping have been supplied from the Customs.

The shipping returns for the year as compared with those for 1888 show an increase in sailing vessels of 1,203 tons entered and 1,382 tons cleared.

The tonnage of the steam vessels entered increased by 875 tons and of those cleared by 1,940 tons.

The number of sailing vessels entered during the year was 50, with an aggregate tonnage of 6,158; their crews amounted to 402.

During the preceding year 83 sailing vessels entered, with an aggregate tonnage of 4,955 and crews numbering 470.

The number of sailing vessels cleared amounted to 56, with a tonnage of 6,305 and crews 438, while during the previous year 83 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 4,923 and crews 460.

The number of steam vessels entered was 102, with tonnage amounting to 93,22 and crews 3,046.

During 1888 104 steam vessels entered, with a tonnage of 92,347, and crews 3,348

The number of steam vessels cleared during the year was 102, with a tonnage of 93,226 and crews numbering 3,036.

The steam vessels cleared in 1888 numbered 104, with a tonnage of 91,286 and crews 3,312.

Of the 50 sailing vessels which entered, the nationalities were :—

British	7
French	27
Italian	1
American	10
Portuguese	5
	50

Of the 56 sailing vessels which cleared, the nationalities were :—

British	10
French	29
Italian	1
American	10
Portuguese	6
	56

Of the 102 steam vessels which entered, the following were the nationalities :—

British	67
French	23
German	12
	102

Of the 102 steam vessels which cleared, the following were the nationalities :—

British	67
French	23
German	12
	102

GAMBIA.

Hospitals.

There were 14 patients remaining in hospital at the close of 1888, and during the following year 176 were admitted as compared with 147 in 1888.

The out-patients numbered 4,973, as against 5,057 in the previous year.

Twenty-two deaths were registered, as against 16 in 1888.

No European died in the hospital during 1889.

The following remarks have been supplied by the Acting Colonial Surgeon in his review of the hospital returns for 1889 :—

"In presenting my report for the year 1889 I venture to draw attention to a few points which I think are worthy of mention.

"I would point out that the Victoria Hospital established here draws its patients from an immense area extending from Goree, which is about 80 miles to the north, to Sierra Leone, which lies about 400 miles to the south, and in consequence all forms of disease are perpetually presenting themselves for treatment.

"1. *Native Diseases.*—The natives of Africa, who are world renowned for their superstition, attribute all diseases to one of two causes, either they have been 'witched,' or some enemy has made 'greegree' against them. Of the latter there are two forms—

"(*a.*) The 'greegree' that is administered to a person, and most usually consists of an infusion made of roots, leaves, or bark from trees supposed to have the desired properties.

"(*b.*) The 'greegree' that is prepared against a person. This is done with much ceremony, and the process is accompanied by incantations, recalling to one's mind the scene of the 'Witches Cauldron' in 'Macbeth.'

"The treatment relied upon for cure, and much practised in the country, is to call in a man who is supposed to be a 'doctor,' who after looking at the patient sits down at his bedside and writes in Arabic characters on a wooden slate a long rigmarole, generally extracts from the Koran, which slate is then washed, and the dirty infusion drank by the patient. Such is native medication, and such is the material on which European pathology has to be brought to bear!

"As a result of this state of ignorance and superstition, unqualified practice of every description is openly carried on, drugs and poisons are daily sold by persons who are wholly ignorant of their properties and doses, but who have acquired sufficient influence over their ignorant patients to extort money. Further, I regret to have to say that I have certain knowledge that abortion is frequently carried on by herbalists in a manner known to the profession, and I can point to Joal as a centre for this nefarious practice. The diseases most commonly fatal amongst the natives I have found to be acute lung and kidney diseases. Intermittent fever amongst them is very common, but not fatal. Alcoholism and venereal diseases of the most virulent types are extremely prevalent.

"I am glad to be able to report that no epidemic occurred in the year 1889.

"Only one case of small-pox showed itself, and this was in the person of an alien girl in the gaol. It was a mild case and made a good recovery, being treated in an isolated house hired for the purpose.

"The rainfall in 1889 was only 32·06 inches as compared with 39·09 inches in 1888; this is the smallest rainfall registered in this Colony since the year 1882.

"The months of September and October, the end of the 'rains' are, I have reason to believe, the most unhealthy for residents in the Gambia, though during the hot rainy months of June, July, and August fever is prevalent. The cold strong winds, both Harmattan and sea-breeze, though pleasant to those newly arrived from Europe, constitute a real source of danger to those who have been compelled to stay in this Colony, and they prove most treacherous and dangerous in that they provide just that stimulus which is required to develop the malaria with which their systems are necessarily impregnated.

"The absence of sewers in the town is a fortunate circumstance, as experience shows that they always tend to induce typhoid disease. I should recommend that the system of disposal of sewerage by means of cess-pits, which prevails here, be abolished, as they must be especially dangerous in a town where the water supply for the mass of the population is drawn from wells a few feet in depth, and in many cases situated within a few yards of the cess-pit itself.

"I wish to draw attention to the fact that many patients are only brought to the hospital in a hopeless and dying state, when treatment is out of the question.

"Causes of death are very rarely known, and the friends of the patients state at haphazard anything that first occurs to them. No medical certificate of death is, in nine cases out of ten, forthcoming, the results being curious."

Population.

The last census was taken in 1881, and the population returned at 14,150. It has probably remained about the same. The rate of infant mortality is very high in the Gambia, and owing to apathy on the part of adult relatives, and want of proper treatment, numbers often succumb to diseases which, under favourable circumstances, ought not to result fatally. The mass of natives prefer to treat themselves, or be treated, according to the fashions of the country, which, it is needless to say, is almost invariably based on erroneous principles, superstition entering largely into their so-called medical and surgical practice.

The following remarks have been supplied by the Registrar relating to this subject for the year 1889:—

GAMBIA.

Births.

According to the registry, the number of births in the Colony during the year now under review was 369, showing a decrease of 11 births as compared to those of 1888.

The birth rate is 26 to 1,000 of the population, taking the census figures of 1881 as the basis.

Distributed according to districts, the births occurred as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Bathurst - - - -	109	123	232
British Combo - - - -	15	30	45
Ceded Mile (including Albreda) -	44	25	69
Macarthy's Island - - -	7	16	23
Total - - -	175	194	369

As the present writer has more than once pointed out in previous reports, it is impossible to place absolute reliance upon these figures notwithstanding the pains which have been taken to attain perfect accuracy. According to the records of births, the population of the Colony has been steadily on the decrease during the *decennium*, while the contrary is an uncontrovertible fact, discovered by observation and experience.

Going further back to the registered returns for the five years preceding 1889, the figures show that the population has been progressively on the decrease.

In view of the fact that the Colony has been visited by no formidable epidemic since 1869, the climate congenial, and the sexes fairly balanced, I am loth to believe that a population so circumstanced must have decreased as the returns would indicate.

Assuming the correctness of the birth returns, the proportion of births to population is 2·7 per cent., while the proportion of deaths, as will appear in the sequel, is 3·7 per cent.

It must be borne in mind, however, that only births occurring in Bathurst and in the sub-districts are recorded, those which might have occurred in places beyond the area of registration, in which the parents might have been temporarily living either for the purposes of trade, or, which is more often the case, to avoid the expensive native customs consequent on the birth of a child, are, of course, not recorded.

Of the 369 births, 361 were blacks and 8 hybrids.

The number of legitimate births was 15, or 4·06 per cent. of the total births.

Deaths.

The registered deaths during the corresponding period, inclusive of still-births, was 532, as against 584 in the preceding year.

The following are the figures:—

Bathurst, 240; British Combo, 132; Ceded Mile and Albreda, 110; McCarthy's Island, 50.

The number of male deaths was 261, of female deaths 271, distributed as follows:—

Europeans - - - - -	2
Hybrids - - - - -	6
Blacks - - - - -	524

The figures under this head are more reliable, owing to the difficulty of avoiding registration.

The following comparative table will show the registered deaths in the Colony during the last five years, viz., from 1885 to 1889 inclusive:—

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1885 -	30	23	33	32	30	39	41	44	64	68	53	55	512
1886 -	67	41	32	22	33	42	35	51	56	71	54	62	566
1887 -	46	38	41	50	60	92	91	104	101	95	84	69	871
1888 -	46	70	39	22	40	35	55	60	66	66	42	43	584
1889 -	52	51	42	41	32	36	40	43	66	42	44	43	532
	241	223	187	167	195	241	262	302	353	342	277	272	3,065

The months of September and October, as will be seen from the above table, retain their ancient reputation of being the deadliest months in the year.

The following were the registered causes of death:—Abscess, 3; accident, 1; anasarca, 1; asthenia, 4; blood poisoning, 1; boils, 1; bronchitis, 2; cachexia, 2; cancer, 2; carditis, 5; cerebral diseases, 4; childbirth, 3; consumption, 7; convulsions, 27; debility, 9; diarrhœa, 9; diseases of the liver, 1; diseases of the respiratory organs, 69; diseases of the stomach, 43; diseases of the kidneys, 3; diseases of the nervous system, 3; dropsy, 33; dysentery, 6; enlarged testes, 1; epilepsy, 1; fireburns, 1; insanity, 3; lethargus, 1; leprosy, 4; marasmus, 1; mumps, 4; murder, 1; nephritis, 1; paralysis, 1; phthisis, 2; pericarditis, 1; pneumonia, 5; remittent and other fevers, 52; scurvy, 1; senile decay, 23; stricture, 2; stillbirths, 19; suffocation, 1; syphilis, 1; teething, 1; traumatic tetanus, 1; ulcers, 10; venereal disease, 1; unascertained causes, 154.

The causes of European deaths were as follows.—Hypostatic congestion of the lungs, 1; bilious remittent fever, 1.

The mortality among infants of two years and under was 26·3 per cent. of the total deaths.

GAMBIA.

The occupations and status of the people who died during the year were as follows :—Arabic teachers, 2 ; blacksmiths, 2 ; butcher, 1 ; canemen, 3 ; children, 26 ; convict prisoners, 3 ; cook, 1 ; farmers, 197 ; fishermen, 2 ; herdsmen, 3 ; infants, 140 ; labourers, 28 ; mason, 1 ; merchant, 1 ; paupers, 8 ; pensioners, 2 ; police constables, 2 ; sailors, 12 ; seamstresses, 3 ; shipwright, 1 ; shopkeepers, 2 ; tailors, 2 ; traders, 24 ; washerwomen, 10 ; weaver, 1 ; writing clerks, 3 ; unspecified or of no occupation, 52.

Marriages.

The number of marriages solemnized was 16, of which five were in the Church of England, eight in the Wesleyan Chapel, and three in the Roman Catholic Church.

Aliens.

The number of aliens on the register on the 31st day of December was 409.

There were seven aliens registered ; seven died, 27 were, by the permission of the Administrator, temporarily removed from the Colony, of whom 12 have returned and 20 were freed on attaining the limit of age prescribed by section XXVI. of the "Registration "of Alien African Children Ordinance, 1884."

His Excellency the Administrator held an inspection of alien children in the large hall at the police barracks in May, when upwards of 300 aliens were presented.

His Excellency expressed himself satisfied with their general condition. The majority of them were well clothed, and appeared to have been well fed and used, especially those under the guardianship of aboriginal natives.

A few were shabby and peculiar amid such well-dressed company, and it would seem that they had been dressed up for the occasion in the cast-off clothes and discarded finery of their guardians.

It was noticeable that a large number of aliens attending the convent school conducted by the sisters could not speak or understand English, or that bastard outgrowth from the language known here as "Aku," which is the vernacular of Sierra Leone residents.

It would appear that very little, if any, lettered knowledge is imparted to them, and that little through the medium of the Joloff language.

Three aliens, who perhaps could not reconcile themselves to their new conditions of life in the Colony, escaped from their guardians, and returned to the habits of savage life.

It will be observed from the tenour of the Registrar's report that the statistics given cannot be relied upon as giving an accurate idea of the state of the Gambia population.

The Registrar is of opinion, in spite of returns to the contrary, that the population is increasing, but although the disparity

between the birth and death-rate is, doubtless, in reality not so great as would appear from the figures given (369 births, 532 deaths), yet I am inclined to the belief that the Registrar is too sanguine in his view of the excess of the birth-rate.

The census taken in 1871 returned the population of the Settlements at 14,190, and in 1881 at 14,150, and I believe these figures to show a fairly accurate representation of the actual state of things; in other words, that the birth and death rate are nearly equal. In spite of the existence of polygamy it is a rare occurrence to find a large family. The present King of Barra, who has had no lack of wives, and is now about 55 years of age, has but two children living; most of the others died in infancy, and this is a history which is but too common in the Gambia.

The Registrar's comparative table of the deaths from 1885 to 1889 shows that April is the healthiest month, and that August, September, and October are the three deadliest. If the death-rate is so high amongst the native population, the effect of such a climate on the European constitution may readily be imagined. It is fortunate that a radical change takes place in December, otherwise few would rally from the extreme depression of the vital forces which occurs to the strongest, after an experience of these months.

Gaols, Prisoners, &c.

The following table shows a comparison of the number of committals in 1888 and 1889 respectively:—

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1888 - -	65	1	4	60	39	24	8	5
1889 - -	94	1	18	75	50	22	2	3

Of the 94 prisoners incarcerated, 84 were males, 7 were females, and 3 were juveniles.

The estimated earnings of the prisoners by labour amounted to 309*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

There was one escape from gaol, and three deaths.

Criminal Statistics.

The following table exhibits a comparison between the offences committed in the year 1888 and those committed in 1889:—

Year.	Total Number of Offences committed.	Offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Offences to Property other than Praedial Larceny.	Other Offences.
1888 - - -	254	64	51	20	119
1889 - - -	256	82	48	16	110

GAMBIA.

Apprehensions and Summonses, and Disposition of foregoing Cases.

Year.	Number discharged for want of Prosecution or Evidence.	Number of Cases dismissed on Merits.	Number of Persons summarily convicted.	Number of Persons committed for Trial in the Superior Courts.
1888 - -	78	82	93	31
1889 - -	52	33	127	44

Year.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Larceny.	Other Offences to Property.	Offences relating to Social Economy of Gambia.	Offences against Master and Servants Act.	Other Offences.	Total.
1888	22	—	11	2	—	4	54	85
1889	32	—	21	5	—	6	63	127

Punishments in connexion with foregoing.

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of Fine or Surety.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Bound over with or without Sureties or other minor Punishments.	Total.
1888 - - -	65	14	13	—	1	93
1889 - - -	84	15	28	—	—	127

The foregoing statistics show that the improvement, noted in my last Blue Book Report as having been steadily progressive since 1883, has been maintained, though there is a very slight increase in the number of offences reported in 1889, as compared with 1888.

Savings Bank.

The savings bank, which was established in 1884, steadily progresses in the number of its depositors.

The amounts in hand at the close of the last three years have been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1887 - - - -	493	3	0
1888 - - - -	516	12	3
1889 - - - -	616	19	2

There are numerous friendly societies, which mostly take the form of burial clubs, and are regulated by an Ordinance passed in 1865.

General Remarks.

The year 1889 has shown a decided advance in general prosperity, and the revenue has more than sufficed for the needs of the Colony.

The export of ground nuts reached the total of 19,636 tons as compared with 10,207 tons in the previous year; there has been, therefore, a healthy revival in this industry. It is impossible that any but a small profit can be made on this merchandise at the present prices, but there seems no other future for the Gambia unless British enterprise can be induced to bring money into the country, and develop the yet untried resources of the land. It is well known that all the important mercantile houses are French, and their principal interests are centred in the cultivation of the ground nut in order that the oil mills in connexion with the head establishments at Marseilles may be kept going. The French merchant, therefore, has a great advantage over his English rival in Bathurst, in that he is able to make a double profit, that on the goods which he imports, and practically exchanges for the ground nuts, and that on the oil which is made in Marseilles; there is at this moment only one English mercantile house dealing in ground nuts (the Bathurst Trading Company), and as there is no mill in connexion with this establishment those who work it have to be contented with the profit on the goods. The French merchants, therefore, so long as they can be sure of a regular supply of ground nuts, will not exert themselves to encourage other industries, at least I cannot find that they have done so hitherto.

It seems well-nigh hopeless, when so many of my predecessors have failed, to expect that my efforts to introduce new industries will be successful, but I shall not relax my efforts nevertheless. I find that Governors McDonnell, O'Connor, and D'Arcy all worked strenously in this direction, and the latter, especially, spared no exertion to introduce cotton into more general cultivation, and to make it an article of export. There was at that time (1863–4) every prospect of success, as the American War had reduced the supplies, and cotton fetched a very high price, but I do not find that any quantity was ever exported from the Gambia. Governor D'Arcy in 1862 proposed that a vessel of from 80 to 100 tons should be sent out from England laden with Egyptian cotton seed, and that two officers should go up the river and distribute the seeds gratis in all the towns and villages near the banks of the river; this suggestion did not find favour with the home authorities, but I learn that subsequently the Manchester Association despatched a ton of the Egyptian seed to the Colony, which was duly sent to the most promising localities, a portion having been retained by the Governor for experiment in a selected spot at British Combo; there should be, therefore, abundance of the Egyptian plant in the river, if the natives paid any attention to the cultivation of the seeds which were given to them.

In regard to the small quantity of Egyptian seed which has recently reached me from the Crown Agents, I propose to retain

GAMBIA.

them all for experimental purposes in the Government House grounds, where they will be under my own supervision.

Past experience conclusively proves that it is hopeless to expect that the natives will ever depart from their old habits and methods unless a superior race, like the Chinese or Bengali labourer, is set down in their midst and the aborigines are driven to adopt the improved fashions of the aliens. Many attempts have been made to introduce the plough and other European agricultural implements, but all have resulted in failure. Some years ago a philanthropic society despatched a supply of implements to McCarthy's Island, and their use was thoroughly explained to the natives, but none were ever utilised, and Governor D'Arcy mentions that while these valuable articles were rusting in an old store he found a native turning over the soil with a piece of hoop from an old cask. It is curious that the plough has never been adopted in this part of Africa, as the cattle are exceptionally fine and could easily be trained for draught, thus saving much manual labour.

No doubt much of the disinclination for work exhibited by the Gambian is to be attributed to the conditions of his life. He is never sure that he will reap the fruits of his labour, and if he cultivates on a large scale, his possessions only the more surely attract the marauding chiefs who live upon the industry of others. If there ever was a doubt about the wisdom of an aggressive policy in such cases, it has been set at rest by the success which has attended the French action in Baddiboo. Since the dispersion of the marauding armies of Saide Mattie and Beram Ceasey this country has once more largely contributed to the trade of Bathurst, and the land is rapidly being occupied by agriculturists only too anxious to plant where they can do so with a reasonable amount of security. The whole of the north bank of the river may now be said to be in a state of quiescence; it remains only to crush Fodey Cabba, the spoiler of Kiang and Jarra on the south bank, when I am sure that a sensible improvement in the stability of the Colony would at once be felt.

I may here with propriety give some account of the progress of the scheme for conducting agricultural experiments in connexion with the Government House grounds for which an expenditure of 300*l.* was sanctioned in the estimates for 1889.

It will be remembered that formerly the greater portion of the $3\frac{3}{4}$ acres forming an enclosure to Government House was a wilderness of rank grass, and neither useful nor ornamental. The whole of this space has been kept clear, and is ready for planting purposes. The Ceará rubber tree has been thoroughly established, and at the end of the next rainy season there will be several trees capable of supplying seed to the districts suitable for its cultivation. I have already distributed seeds in directions where they would be likely to receive attention, and in addition supplies have been sent to the Governors of the Gold Coast and Lagos.

There is one species of castor oil which thrives with great luxuriance in the soil of Bathurst, and if there were any market

for the seeds this plant would be well worth attention. I have sent some specimens to Kew with inquiries as to its economic value.

One great drawback to success in these experiments has been removed. After boring in several places good water has been discovered, and two wells have been constructed which yield a constant supply of water quite fresh enough for ordinary purposes; additions have also been made to the receptacles for catching rain water, and tanks to the extent of 3,000 gallons have been suitably erected. More rain water, however, is needed, as I find that many plants will not tolerate water with any trace of salt in their early stages, though later on they seem to thrive well enough. I propose, therefore, should the finances admit, to arrange next year for the construction of an underground tank to hold 5,000 gallons of rain water.

I am glad to say that it was only found necessary to expend 156*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* out of the 300*l.* allowed. This sum was expended mainly in labour, in constructing wells, in the purchase of tanks, and in erecting fences. I was unable to secure a competent gardener, and up to the present I regret to say that the same drawback exists.

It is gratifying to report that the year 1889 was fairly healthy, and that no epidemic disease visited the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. T. CARTER,
Administrator.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

No. 90.

GIBRALTAR.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 49.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1890.

[C.—5897.–20.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	1887
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	,,
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889

No. 90.

GIBRALTAR.

Sir A. E. HARDINGE to Lord KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, April 1, 1890.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889, together with the report thereon by Captain C. S. Shephard, D.S.O., Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HARDINGE,
General and Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Gibraltar,
March 31, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on the Blue Book for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. S. SHEPHARD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency General the Hon.
Sir Arthur E. Hardinge, K.C.B., C.I.E.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of GIBRALTAR for 1889.

Finance.

The public revenue of the Colony for the year 1889 amounted to pesetas 1,591,853, showing a net increase of pesetas 110,282 as compared with the previous year's revenue.

With the exception of house rents, licenses, and weighing fees, there has been a general increase in the revenue from all other sources.

GIBRALTAR.

Under the heads of postage and commission on money orders and telegraph receipts the increase amounts to pesetas 32,725 and pesetas 11,001 respectively. Notwithstanding that these amounts represent the gross receipts under the above heads in 1889, the net postal revenue still shows an increase as compared with 1888.

An appreciable increase is shown under the head of "special receipts," which is chiefly due to cemetery and hospital receipts having been included under that head, these items forming part of the colonial revenues since the hospital and cemetery were transferred to Government control.

The item "Rent of Queen's Stores" also shows an increase over that of the previous year. This is attributable to a greater quantity of spirits being stored for consumption in Gibraltar. It may be here remarked that although the law in Spain with regard to the importation of spirits there has been somewhat modified, no attempt has been made to remove the restriction on the introduction from Gibraltar of wines and spirits and beer into the neighbouring country for consumption.

Rate of Exchange.

The highest rate of exchange for the year 1889 was twenty-six pesetas and twenty-five centimos (26p. 25 cts.), and the lowest rate twenty-five pesetas and eighty-one centimos (25p. 81cts.) to the pound sterling.

The expenditure for the year 1889 amounted to pesetas 1,439,872, or an increase of pesetas 113,347 over that of 1888, this being due chiefly to a larger expenditure in the departments of the post office, the Colonial Hospital, and on miscellaneous services. That of the post office is attributable to the gross expenditure having been brought to account in 1889, but the increased revenue derived from this department more than compensates for the excess of expenditure appearing in that year. Three items under the head of miscellaneous services, viz.:—

Cost of removal of hulks,
Refitting of steam launch,
Upkeep of cemetery,

chiefly contributed to the increase of expenditure shown under that head.

The fact of fewer public works being undertaken in 1889 as compared with 1888 enables a saving of pesetas 22,598 to be shown under the head of works and buildings.

The revenue was in excess of the expenditure for 1889 by pesetas 151,980, exclusive of the balance brought forward on 1st January 1889, which amounted to pesetas 60,264.

The invested funds have augmented from 8,199*l.* at the end of 1888 to 11,731*l.* at the end of 1889.

A reference to the statement of assets and liabilities accompanying this report discloses the satisfactory financial condition of the Colony, which is in a great measure due to the careful vigilance exercised by the Executive over the colonial expenditure.

Laws.

One Order in Council and 15 Ordinances were put in force during the year, the principal of these laws being the Supreme Court Consolidation Order in Council, the Cemetery Ordinance, an Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Civil Prison, the Savings Bank Laws Consolidation Ordinance, the Coroner's Ordinance, and the Colonial Hospital Ordinance.

Shipping.

The returns for 1889 show the following particulars :—

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
Steamers - - - -	6,301	6,162,690	173,021
Sailing vessels - - -	845	94,242	5,789
Total - - -	7,146	6,256,932	178,810
Arrivals in 1888 - - -	6,859	5,991,249	168,207
Increase in 1889 - - -	287	265,683	10,603

The above results exhibit a steady increase in the number of ships calling at this port.

Public Health.

The officer of health, in his annual report on the public health of Gibraltar for the year 1889, states that it was not so satisfactory as it was for the year immediately preceding. The health of the community in the year 1888 was not sensibly affected by epidemic disease in any form, whereas during 1889 whooping cough, small-pox, and diphtheria prevailed extensively and affected the death roll very considerably.

Apart from these epidemic diseases, the health of the community for the year under review will compare very favourably with any former years.

There were only five deaths from fever during the year, this being the smallest death-rate from such a cause ever recorded in Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR.

The health officer considers that defects in the drainage system of the city are largely responsible for the deaths from the diphtheria that prevailed to an alarming extent during the greater part of the year; but as the present condition of this drainage system is being thoroughly investigated, it is hoped that the result will be a marked improvement in the public health.

The death rate per mil. of the civil population was for 1889 24·1; for 1888 it was 20·5.

The number of births for the year was 483 and in the preceding year the number was 510.

The ratio of birth per mil. of the population was 26·2.

Meteorological.

The rainfall during 1889 was 30·86 inches, or 3·64 inches below the average.

The highest temperature in the shade was 94·8 on the 10th August. The lowest temperature was 40·6 on the 23rd of January.

The average degree of humidity for the year was 71.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of summary convictions before the magistrate for 1889 was 808, or 204 less than in 1888. 243 persons were discharged with a caution.

The number of summary convictions before the Captain of the Port for 1889 was 50, or 10 less than in 1888.

The majority of these convictions were for minor offences.

Twenty cases were brought for trial before the Supreme Court, viz., one of murder, four of manslaughter, one of attempt to murder, seven of offences against the person, two of robbery with violence, three of offences against property, and two of miscellaneous offences. Verdicts for the Crown were returned in 14 of these cases. In two cases of larceny the bills were ignored by the Grand Jury and in four cases verdicts were found for the accused.

Public Institutions.

The outcome of the Commission of Inquiry into the Management and Organisation of the Civil Hospital, to which reference is made in the Report on the Blue Book for 1888, was a decision from the Secretary of State to effect a change in the administration of this institution.

Consequently, in September 1889, an Ordinance was passed converting the civil hospital into a Government institution under the name of the "Colonial Hospital" and the management of a

Board of Commissioners whose acts are subject to the approval of the governor, three of these Commissioners being civil officers of the Colony and one the Inspecting Medical Officer and Consulting Surgeon of the Institution.

Dr. Baggetto, the surgeon of the civil hospital, having been superannuated on the reorganization of the institution, he was succeeded by Dr. Turner, the assistant surgeon, the latter post being filled by the appointment from England of Dr. Errington Ker.

It was decided to engage the services of two English lady nurses for the purpose of taking charge of wards, but only one of these, Miss C. Worthington, was enabled to join in 1889, the other, Miss Mawe, not taking up her duties until early in the present year.

In the Lunatic Asylum some improvements were made in 1889, with a view to obviate the escape of patients from the precincts of the asylum.

Education.

The inspector's report shows that the result of the examination has, on the whole, been satisfactory, and exhibits evidence of good work done in schools receiving Government aid.

It is noted that the number of children above 14 attending the schools shows a reduction.

The reports on needlework and singing are satisfactory.

Only one school has attempted extra subjects, with moderate results.

The amount collected as "school pence," is still too low, though higher than the past year. This question has been brought to the special notice of school managers, whose attention has also been drawn to the increase in the number of aliens and children of parents with incomes exceeding 150*l.* a year.

Public Works and Buildings.

The principal works completed during the year were:—

The extension of the small-pox hospital at the Inundation.

The new quarters for the convent sergeant, dairyman, and governor's coxswain.

Rebuilding of superintendent's quarters, civil prison.

Construction of an extra cell at the central police station.

General.

The statistics kept by the "Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce" relating to trade show in almost every instance, except tobacco, an improvement for 1889, as compared with the previous year.

GIBRALTAR. This is especially noticeable as regards coal, the sale of which exceeded half a million tons, or about 70,000 tons more than in 1888.

Statistical Returns.

The returns for the Board of Trade form Appendices II. and III. of this report.

C. S. SHEPHARD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

0 62490.

APPENDIX I.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR ON 31ST DECEMBER 1889.

Assets.	Amount.		Liabilities.	Amount.	
	Pesetas	Cents.		Pesetas	Cents.
Cash balance in Colonial Treasury on 31st December 1889	100,437	87	Salaries	541	66
Do. in Crown Agents hands on do.	25,872	87	Allowances	525	40
Outstanding ground rents on do.	52,052	64	Pensions	3,005	05
Do. house rents on do.	3,708	63	Works and buildings	5,000	00
Invested funds 11,731*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* at 25·66½	301,080	01	Outstanding drafts on Crown Agents 537*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*	13,786	09
Accrued interest on do. 151*l.* 5*s.*	3,881	82	Amount due to Malta Government for the maintenance of Gibraltar Convicts in Malta prison	702	56
Savings bank profits for 1889 about	18,000	00	Liabilities of the post office	125,405	89
Rent of limekiln	1,000	00	Do. do. telegraph	8,083	62
North front rents	6,650	00		157,050	27
Hospital expenses of distressed British subjects due by Malta Government	315	79			
Maintenance of certain lunatic patients	1,557	35	Balance of assets over liabilities	472,345	53
Amount due by police inspectors Wright and Bennett	615	96			
Assets of the post office	109,769	64			
Do. telegraph office	2,677	00			
Cash balance in hands of postmistress on Morocco courier service account	1,776	22			
Pesetas	629,395	80	Pesetas	629,395	80

APPENDIX II.

RETURNS FOR THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Population estimated.

1888.		1889.	
Civil - -	18,464	Civil - -	18,493
Military - -	6,003	Military - -	5,616
Male - -	14,432	Male - -	14,218
Female - -	10,035	Female - -	9,891

	1888.	1889.
	£	£
Gross amount of public revenue - -	59,262	63,674
Gross amount of public expenditure - -	53,061	57,594
Customs revenue - - - -	11,279	11,709
Public debt - - - - -	Nil.	Nil.
	Tons	Tons
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared -	11,986,032	12,515,850
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared	10,123,006	10,338,132
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared	1,863,026	2,177,718
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared	171,143	186,303
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared	11,814,889	12,329,547
Value of total imports - - -	No returns available.	
Value of imports from the United Kingdom -		
Value of total exports - - -		
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom - - - - -		

APPENDIX III.

RETURN of the NUMBER, TONNAGE, and CREWS of VESSELS entered and cleared from and to Foreign Countries *viâ* the Suez Canal during the year 1889.

Countries.	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
India - -	197	352,001	12,531	61	128,488	8,340
Australia - -	55	156,372	9,604	54	150,386	9,706
Burmah - -	17	22,215	411	3	2,178	105
Ceylon - -	2	1,680	37	1	132	20
China - -	12	21,892	805	1	1,327	41
Japan - -	13	23,102	585	6	9,251	80
Siam - -	4	3,986	95	—	—	—
Java - -	16	25,422	515	—	—	—
Manilla - -	29	56,946	1,178	1	716	30
Asiatic Turkey -	5	6,106	148	2	3,019	63
Persia - -	1	1,485	28	—	—	—
Aden - -	—	—	—	2	3,444	58
New Zealand -	—	—	—	1	34	14
Hong Kong -	—	—	—	2	3,807	99
Cochin China -	—	—	—	3	4,314	114
Abyssinia - -	—	—	—	1	826	22
Straits Settlements -	—	—	—	5	6,784	131
Total	351	671,207	25,937	143	314,706	18,935

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 74.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

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1889.

[C.—5897.—4.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	1887
25	St. Vincent	,,
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,

No. 74.

GOLD COAST.

Acting Governor Hodgson to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Victoriaborg,
Accra, August 27, 1889.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1888, which have been received by me to-day, with copy of a report thereon by Mr. P. Hughes, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, who has been charged with its compilation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. M. Hodgson,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book for 1888.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
1. The revenue for the year 1888 was	97,806	19	5
and the expenditure - -	133,467	16	11
showing a decrease in the receipts of the year as compared with 1887 of - - - -	24,543	11	1
and a similar decrease in expenditure of - - - -	5,975	5	4
2. The Customs revenue during the year 1887 was as follows:—Specific duties - - -	95,318	10	2
Ad valorem duties - - -	9,566	11	9
Total - - -	104,885	1	11
Owing to the low prices ruling in the European markets of the staple exports of the Colony, to the abolition of the ad valorem duties, and in a small degree to an alteration of the tariff, the Customs revenue during the year 1888 only amounted to - - -	79,690	13	5

o 60216. Wt. 13155.

Gold Coast.

	£	s.	d.
But the increase of from 2*l.* to 5*l.* in the cost of spirit licenses during the year 1888 resulted in an increase of 637*l.*, the amount realised in 1887 being 3,946*l.* 5*s.*; in 1888 -	4,133	5	0
3. Under the head of fines, forfeitures, &c. there is an increase amounting to 1,200*l.*, principally owing to fines inflicted upon smugglers. The total amount realised was -	3,799	1	6
On the other hand, owing to sale of investments, the interest received thereon shows a decrease of 1,021*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* The total amount received was - - -	2,366	10	0
Other receipts amounted to - -	7,817	9	6
Total - - -	97,806	19	5

Expenditure.

4. The expenditure during 1888 shows an increase upon that of 1887 in certain items of 12,917*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* and a decrease upon others amounting to 18,892*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

The principal items showing increased expenditure were:—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial Secretary's Office, owing to the increase of staff in 1888 and vacancies which occurred in 1887 -	1,137	1	1
Public works, appointment of foremen	484	2	1
District Commissioners, new appointments - - - -	2,026	14	7
Educational, increase of staff and arrears for 1887 - - -	298	0	6
Constabulary, increased strength and cost of Recruiting Expeditions -	5,883	9	1
Medical, fewer officers on half salary than in 1887 - - -	263	6	11
Public Cemeteries New Department, created in 1888 - - -	42	13	0
Services exclusive of Establishments.			
Post Office, establishment of pillar boxes - - - -	124	0	10
Constabulary, purchase of machine guns, &c. - - -	1,206	12	11
Medical, establishment of a lunatic asylum - - - -	727	16	10
Pensions and gratuities - -	541	5	5

5. The principal items showing decrease in expenditure were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs, abolition of office of chief examining officer - - -	529	3	5
Audit Office, account for 1888 not adjusted - - - -	1,770	14	6
Judicial vacancies in appointments of Chief Justice and Queen's Advocate - - -	646	13	8
Public Works, only a few new works being undertaken during the year -	9,021	7	5
Educational, grants not made pending Inspector's report -	425	0	10
Rent, more public buildings in occupation - - - -	399	0	0
Transport, decrease in passages of officers and freight - -	1,070	19	8
Miscellaneous, decrease in stationery, arrears of telegraph for 1886 paid in 1887 - - - -	2,324	5	9

Public Debt.

6. There is no public debt.

Military Expenditure.

7. Two companies of the 1st West India Regiment are stationed at Cape Coast at a cost to the Imperial Government of 10,376*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, exclusive of cost of passage of officers from and to England, and stores sent from England.

8. The local defensive force of the Colony is represented by the Gold Coast Constabulary, at a cost during the year of 37,321*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* This force includes 851 Hausas, employed solely on military duties, and 422 civil police, to whom an officer is specially attached.

Public Works.

	£	s.	d.
9. The expenditure on public works during the year, exclusive of salaries, was - - - -	18,279	8	5
A great improvement in all the coast towns has been effected by the erection of lamp posts, fitted with lamps constructed to burn kerosine oil; the total cost of the work was	1,543	4	9
The extension of the telegraph line from Accra to Kwitta was also proceeded with at a cost of -	1,926	16	9
Several Government buildings were also placed in repair, and new buildings constructed at a cost of	4,395	7	7

GOLD COAST.

Legislation.

10. Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the most important :—

No. 2. "An Ordinance to amend the law with reference to the personation of public officers and others having authority under Government."

No. 3. "An Ordinance to provide for the custody of lunatics."

No. 7. "An Ordinance to provide for interments in cemeteries, and to prohibit intramural sepulture."

No. 8. "An Ordinance to provide for the appointment of public vaccinators, and for the compulsory vaccination of children in the Colony and protected territories."

No. 17. "An Ordinance to establish and regulate an inland post office."

No. 23. "An Ordinance to provide for the regulation of native prisons."

No. 26. "An Ordinance to regulate the display of tribal emblems and flags."

Ordinance No. 2 was essentially necessary to enable the Government to deal with a most mischievous class of men who, under the pretence of acting under the Governor's authority, levied blackmail upon Kings, Chiefs, and others in the interior.

No. 3. Until the passing of this Ordinance it had been customary to send all lunatics to Sierra Leone for safe custody.

No. 7. This Ordinance was necessitated by the persistence of the people in burying corpses within dwelling-houses.

No. 8. In such a Colony as the Gold Coast, where towns and villages are crowded and no attention is displayed by the people themselves to sanitary laws, such an Ordinance was urgently required.

No. 17. This Ordinance was most useful in putting the Post Office Establishment upon a proper footing.

No. 23. The scope of this Ordinance is to establish a thorough supervision over native prisons.

Ordinance No. 26. Under the provisions of this Ordinance the Government will be able more effectually to control the display of tribal emblems and flags, often resulting in serious breaches of the peace.

Councils and Assemblies.

11. Mr. John Sarbah, a native gentleman of the Gold Coast, was appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council, May 12th, 1888.

Civil Establishment.

12. The following were the principal changes :—

Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G., to be Colonial Secretary, March 31st, vice Captain Barrow, C.M.G., retired.

Mr. F. M. Hodgson appointed Colonial Secretary, September 15th, vice Mr. F. Evans appointed Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands and Island Secretary of Antigua.

Mr. J. T. Hutchinson appointed Queen's Advocate, June 1888.

Mr. J. Worall appointed Comptroller of Customs, 12th April 1888, vice Mr. W. Manfold, deceased.

Mr. C. E. Akers appointed Commissioner for Native Affairs, 1st August, vice Captain Lonsdale, deceased.

Seven District Commissioners, one Assistant Colonial Surgeon, three Assistant Inspectors, G.C.C., and one Pay and Quartermaster G.C.C., were appointed.

Mr. Stevens, Pay and Quartermaster, G.C.C., accepted an appointment in another Colony.

Assistant Inspector Dalrymple, G.C.C., was killed in the execution of his duty.

Four Assistant Inspectors resigned their appointments. One Assistant Colonial Surgeon resigned.

Savings Banks.

13. There were 38 depositors at Accra and three at Cape Coast. The amount deposited during the year at Accra was 983*l.* 2*s.*, and at Cape Coast 10*l.* 17*s.*; the amount of withdrawals at Accra during the year was 51*l.* 13*s.*; there were no withdrawals at Cape Coast. The amount of interest allowed is 2½ per cent. The expenditure in connexion with the Savings Banks was 7*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* There is no doubt that the institution of Savings Banks has had a good effect, and there is every reason to believe that the number of depositors will be greatly increased as the advantages offered for the safe custody of money, with interest accruing, become more widely known and understood.

Ecclesiastical.

14. The Gold Coast Colony is within the diocese of the Bishop of Sierra Leone. In compliance with the expressed wish of a considerable portion of the community, arrangements have been made for the appointment of a Colonial chaplain, to reside at Accra. An Assistant Colonial chaplain will also be appointed to Cape Coast.

A considerable staff of clergymen, European and Native, are resident in the Colony, and attached to the Wesleyan, Basel, North German, and Roman Catholic Missions.

Education.

15. During the year 1888 the system of granting Government aid to schools according to the amounts earned by the pupils by proficiency, attendance, &c. was introduced.

	£	s.	d.
The Basel Mission Schools earned -	351	18	0
The Wesleyan Mission Schools earned -	229	13	0
The Roman Catholic Mission Schools earned	77	5	0
The Bremen Mission Schools earned -	28	7	6
Total -	687	3	6

The cost of the Government schools, including salaries, was 1,128*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The pupils on the lists of the Government schools for boys at Accra and Cape Coast numbered 832. The pupils on the lists of the Government schools for girls at Accra and Cape Coast numbered 217, an increase as compared with the year 1887 of 185 boys and 39 girls.

The lists of pupils in schools, other than Government schools, show a total increase of 480, but there is a falling off in the attendance of girls amounting to 84.

The Actual Number of Pupils during 1888.

	Boys.	Girls.
In Government schools - - -	832	217
In other than Government schools - -	2,789	759
Giving a total of 4,597 -	3,621	976

and showing a total increase of 704 pupils as compared with the year 1887.

The report of the Inspector of Schools shows a decided progress during the year, and there can be no doubt that the action of the Government in introducing the system of making grants to the various schools in accordance with the results of the examinations held has had a most beneficial effect. There is, however, a very general wish expressed that the Inspector of Schools should be a Resident Officer of the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

	£	s.	d.
16. The total value of imports for the year was - - - -	432,112	5	4
The total value of exports for the year was - - - -	381,619	0	5
The imports as compared with the year 1887 show an increase in value of -	59,552	2	11
The exports as compared with 1887 show an increase in value of -	9,172	10	0

The principal article of import is rum, of which 626,183 gallons were imported, principally from America. This total exceeds by 209,521 gallons the quantity imported in 1887; but the amount of duty paid upon rum in 1888 is less by 11,210*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* than the amount received in 1887, the totals being for 1888 54,867*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* and in 1887 66,077*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

It is worthy of remark that in the district of Kwitta the amount of rum imported during the year 1887 was only 8,636 gallons; but in the year 1888 28,176 gallons were imported. The increase was occasioned principally by a special reduction of the tariff from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* per gallon upon spirits imported to the eastward of the River Volta, and in some measure also by the strenuous efforts of the Government to put down smuggling.

The other dutiable articles of import were brandy, gin, liqueurs, wines, beer, guns, gunpowder, lead, cartridges, percussion caps, and tobacco. They yielded a total duty of 24,823*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

The principal articles imported duty free were cotton, woollen and silk goods, building materials and lumber, coopers' stores, provisions of all kinds, kerosene oil, machinery, perfumery, rice, flour and biscuit, and sugar.

The principal articles of export were palm kernels, palm oil, camwood, gold dust, ground nuts, guinea grains, gum copal, copra, rubber, and monkey skins.

In palm oil and palm kernels there has been a considerable increase in the amount exported as compared with 1887, owing to a more favourable market; but in rubber there has been a considerable falling off. It is exceedingly difficult to make the ordinary native understand the necessity for care in the preparation of rubber for export, and this, together with the pernicious habit of cutting down the trees in order more easily and quickly to obtain sap, will, it is to be feared, in the future deprive the Colony to a great extent of a valuable and marketable product.

The value of gold dust exported, principally to the United Kingdom, was 86 510*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, as against 81,168*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* in the year 1887.

Shipping.

17. Twenty-three sailing vessels and 242 steamers entered during the year 1888, and 21 sailing vessels and 243 steamers cleared during the year. The aggregate tonnage of the sailing vessels was 5,114 tons, and of steamers 275,874 tons.

Criminal Justice.

18. The number of offences reported was 5,099, as against 3,294 during the year 1887; the difference may be accounted for by the action of the Government in stringently enforcing the provisions of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, more particularly with regard to the clauses affecting sanitation.

The measures adopted to prevent smuggling have also resulted in many convictions; 2,871 persons were punished by fine, 254

GOLD COAST.

were imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 427 were peremptorily imprisoned, 80 were bound over with or without sureties, or otherwiselightly dealt with, and six were flogged.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of cases tried by the Supreme Court upon indictments or informations, the total numbering 238 as against 257 in 1887.

Health.

19. Outbreaks of small-pox occurred in the eastern and north-eastern districts amongst the native population ; vaccination was at once resorted to, the patients were isolated, and every care was taken to prevent the spread of the disease, which it is believed was introduced by native traders arriving from the interior. Five European officials died in the Colony, and one immediately after arriving in England. Five officers, dangerously ill, were invalided during the year.

Hospitals.

20. Hospitals are established at Accra, Cape Coast, and Elmina. At other stations there are dispensaries, and out-patients receive medical attention gratis. During the past few years the native population has become fully aware of the advantage to be derived from skilful treatment, and the repugnance they formerly showed to attend the hospitals has almost entirely disappeared. It is in contemplation to establish another hospital at Kwitta. A lunatic asylum has recently been opened, and it now contains 30 male and six female patients.

The entire cost of the hospitals and lunatic asylum, including the salaries of the medical staff throughout the Colony, was 15,919*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

Meteorological Observations.

21. 34·96 inches of rain fell at Accra during the year, as against 34·56 in 1887 ; the greatest rainfall in one day was 3·65 inches, and in 1887 6·50 inches.

The maximum solar heat during the month of was 148·76, and during the month of January 139·39. Readings were taken at 9 a.m. The shade maximum during the month of March at 9 a.m. was 83·97, and at 5 p.m., 88·06 ; during January, 81·51 at 9 a.m., and at 5 p.m., 86·06. The relative humidity during the month of August was 86·45, and in January, 69·31. The prevailing winds were north-east from January till October, and north-west and south-west from October till the end of December.

(Signed) PERCIVAL HUGHES,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

August 8th, 1889.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 76.

GOLD COAST.

SANITARY AND MEDICAL REPORTS FOR 1887 AND 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 12.)

LONDON:
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1889.

[C.—5897.–6.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department) -	1887
27	Leeward Islands - - - - -	,,
28	British Guiana - - - - -	,
29	Western Australia - - - - -	,,
30	Falkland Islands - - - - -	,,
31	Basutoland - - - - - -	,,
32	St. Lucia - - - - - -	,,
33	Hong Kong - - - - -	,,
34	Fiji - - - - - -	,,
35	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues - -	,
37	Ceylon - - - - - -	,,
38	British New Guinea - - - -	,,
39	British Guiana - - - - -	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District) - - - -	1888
41	Gambia - - - - - -	1887
42	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,
43	Victoria - - - - - -	,,
44	British Bechuanaland - - - -	,,
45	New Guinea - - - - -	,,
46	Newfoundland - - - - -	,,
47	New Zealand - - - - -	,,
48	Heligoland - - - - - -	1888
49	Gibraltar - - - - - -	,,
50	Bermuda - - - - - -	,,
51	Trinidad - - - - - -	,,
52	Turk's Islands - - - - -	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration) - - -	,,
54	Falkland Islands - - - - -	,,
55	Bahamas - - - - - -	,,
56	Jamaica - - - - - -	1887–8
57	Malta - - - - - -	1888
58	St. Helena - - - - - -	,,
59	Straits - - - - - -	,,
60	Natal - - - - - -	,
61	Gambia - - - - - -	,,
62	Barbados - - - - - -	,,
63	Labuan - - - - - -	,,
64	Grenada - - - - - -	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca) - - -	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines) - - - -	1889
67	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1888
68	Lagos - - - - - -	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago) - - - - -	,,
70	Basutoland - - - - - -	,,
71	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
72	British Guiana - - - - -	,,
73	Western Australia - - - -	,,
74	Gold Coast - - - - -	,,
75	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,

No. 76.

GOLD COAST.

SANITARY AND MEDICAL REPORTS FOR 1887 AND 1888.

No. 1.

Acting Governor HODGSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
July 22, 1889.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of Colonel White's Despatch of the 25th November 1887,* I have the honour to transmit copy of a letter from the Chief Medical Officer enclosing the sanitary reports of the Colony for the year 1887.

2. The total number of cases which received medical aid during the year amounted to 109,459. Out of a total strength of 72 European and West Indian officials resident on the Gold Coast in 1887, 4 died and 15 were invalided, the death rate being 5·4 per cent. and the invaliding rate 20·8 per cent.; but the year was an exceptionally unhealthy one.

Accra.

3. The report on this station is satisfactory. The opening of the new lunatic asylum is referred to. The fence which the Chief Medical Officer recommends should be erected around the hospital and asylum is desirable but not a necessity, and it will receive the attention it deserves when there are time and funds which can be devoted to it. Other matters referred to with regard to Accra, as in the case of the other stations, are dealt with in subsequent reports, which are submitted to your Lordship by this mail.

Addah.

4. Dr. McCarthy speaks very highly of the zeal and energy displayed by Dr. Cole, and I agree with him. The shore towns of Addah are reported as in a creditable state of cleanliness.

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* No. 5 in Colonial Possessions Report No. 12 [C.—5249-9.], 1888.

o 60249. Wt. 13155.

Axim.

5. The use of dustbins is recommended in this report by Dr. Heron, and dustbins were supplied; but after they had been tried for some time he condemned them, as shown in his report for the year 1888, forwarded in another despatch.* With regard to the construction of a dam for the purpose of conserving the supply of water afforded by the small stream to which reference is made, Dr. Heron has several times acted as District Commissioner and could have taken the matter in hand by means of prison labour without applying for special authority. The dam has since been constructed, but is not at present found to answer its purpose, as the natives persist in fouling the water and rendering it useless for drinking purposes.

Cape Coast.

6. The report upon this station as to its sanitary condition is, on the whole, satisfactory. It is necessary on occasion to employ the Army Medical Staff at this station for medical duty when no Assistant Colonial Surgeon is available for the purpose, except by depriving one of the other stations of medical aid, and the neglect with respect to the hospital and hospital records was exceptional, and with the Chief Medical Officer in full and proper touch with the out-stations is not likely to occur again. I have transmitted an extract of that portion of this report which refers to the Kotocraba Wells to the District Commissioner, but I feel sure that the evil complained of does not exist now, as I cannot think that upon proper representation by the medical officers any District Commissioner would allow such a state of things to continue.

Elmina.

7. The rain-gathering areas at the Castle have since been cemented, and the District Commissioner has been instructed to give the question of domiciliary sepulture his attention. The town is reported to have been creditably clean.

Quittah.

8. The Chief Medical Officer remarks upon the apathy and obstructiveness of the more educated classes of natives in matters of sanitary reform and the ignorance of the others. The matter of the Hausa latrines has been referred to the Inspector General. The mortality among the European residents is stated to have been 40 per cent.

Very great sanitary improvements are stated to have been made in the different towns by the present Governor. Dr. McCarthy enumerates ten of those improvements and the difficulties which stand in the way of progress in sanitary reform.

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* No. 2, page 24.

Winnebah.

9. The repairs to the fort and new offices have been completed since the date of this report and they are very creditable buildings. The sanitary state of the district has also improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

The CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Medical Department, Victoriaborg, Accra,
April 20, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for his Excellency the Governor's information, the enclosed sanitary reports of the Colony for the year 1887.

The reason I am so late in transmitting them is that I did not get the report of the district of Quittah till this month, though by rule it was due on the 31st January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. MCCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary.

SANITARY REPORT ON ACCRA DISTRICT.

Since Dr. Waldron took over the charge of this district in December last the two chief sanitary problems, the pig nuisance and public latrines, have been finally settled. Hence these subjects receive merely a passing notice in his report.

Pigs Nuisance.

On the 19th of December his Excellency the Governor convened a meeting of all the Chiefs, headmen, and leading natives of Accra and Christiansborg, and informed them that the pigs, then at large in the town, must be styed, his Excellency giving them a month to carry out his orders.

The assembly was evidently strongly impressed by the terms and firm tone of the Governor's address, and felt that it was not

GOLD COAST.

possible to evade the plain instructions conveyed to them; for in a little over the stipulated time not a pig was seen at large.

The absence of these filthy brutes from the streets and suburbs has effectually cleared the atmosphere of the town of that sickening odour which was its characteristic feature.

Public Latrines.

With respect to these the Surveyor General has proposed a plan which will render the trench latrine the success which we feared at one time it would not be. A tract of land, about 80 yards wide and extending nearly the whole length of the back of the town, has just been surveyed and its boundaries will be indicated by small pillars. Within this space it is proposed to construct 14 latrines each 30 feet long by 10 feet deep and having a movable iron screen and roof; the latter is essential to prevent the contents being liquified in the rainy season.

At 4 p.m. every day the inspectors of nuisances, accompanied by the sanitary labourers, will visit the latrines and see that the contents are covered with a layer of dry earth. As each latrine is nearly full it will be covered up with earth and the screens removed to a new pit previously dug.

The tract of land utilized for this purpose will be sufficiently extensive to admit of fresh pits being dug for an indefinite period of time. As soon as the boundary pillars are erected, however, I am quite prepared to hear the usual clamour for compensation made by so-called owners of the enclosed land; but if the important question of efficient latrine accommodation for Accra is ever to be successfully solved the Government must not allow itself to be obstructed in carrying out a measure which has for its object the physical and moral well-being of the whole community.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that the strip of land marked out by the Surveyor General for the purpose of erecting latrines on should be permanently secured against all intrusion on the part of builders as well as against presumed ownership.

Slaughter-House and Meat Market.

Dr. Waldron draws attention to the necessity which exists for the erection of a meat market and slaughter-house at Accra. At present the meat sold for public consumption is killed at irregular times in private houses, hence it is impossible to say whether the beasts are healthy when slaughtered.

It is needless for me to point to the great danger to which we are exposed here from having to use meat we cannot prove to have been sound before it is killed. On this subject I would refer to chapter VI., sub-section III. of Parke's Hygiene which treats of the "Diseases arising from altered quality of meat." A perusal of this article will show how extremely necessary it is that all cattle should be slaughtered under official supervision and exposed for sale in a public market.

Dr. Waldron also condemns as a grave sanitary nuisance the green stagnant ponds which exist in the middle of the town, and in which the people living in the vicinity bathe and wash.

His Excellency Governor Griffith visited these ponds in the month of January, and was, I think, sufficiently impressed with the necessity of having them filled in. If this were done an admirable site for a meat market would be available.

Respecting these ponds, the question has been asked where the people are to bathe and wash if they are filled in? My answer is the sea, which is so close at hand. To bathe in the sea is to give health; to wallow in these foul stagnant pools, disease. I therefore sincerely trust his Excellency will soon find himself able to rid Accra of this as effectually as he has other long-standing nuisances.

Accra Hospital.

The hospital at Accra is always kept in a state of cleanliness and good order, which is chiefly due to the care and attention bestowed upon it by the dispenser, Mr. Boham, an officer who conducts his responsible duties as efficiently as to merit the unstinted praise of every surgeon under whom he serves.

But it is not altogether for the care bestowed on his clerical and dispenser's duties that Mr. Boham has earned a good name: as a nurse in sickness he has justly merited the esteem of Europeans. I am glad to have the opportunity of bringing this officer's merits to the knowledge of his Excellency the Governor.

The surgical instruments are in good order and the books kept up to date.

The total number of in-patients treated at the hospital during the year was -	421
Total number of out-patients (new cases) -	5,377
Total number of old cases (attendances) -	23,495
Grand total of those who received medical aid at the Accra Hospital during the year 1887 - -	29,293

The Lunatic Asylum at Accra.

This asylum was opened for the admission of patients on the 1st of September 1887. The boundary wall of the building encloses an area of 1,607 square yards; this space is equally divided in its length by a wall, which forms the party-wall of the male and female sections of the establishment, which, together with the four strong rooms, will accommodate 50 patients.

With this number in, but which I doubt will ever be reached, the air space per head would be 588 cubic feet. This may appear inadequate in a tropical climate, but the wards are so efficiently

ventilated that a large volume of sea air is kept in constant movement through them. The same remark applies to the strong rooms, each of which, however, has a cubic air space of 727·32 feet.

The area of each airing court is 595 square yards 6 feet. The courts are planted with grass and umbrageous trees, which will in a few years afford sufficient shade for the patients to rest under. The area of the garden outside the walls is 5,600 square yards. Here the male lunatics work under the supervision of the warders.

In this garden the following vegetables and plants are sown, viz.:—Banana, Indian corn, cassava, peppers, okroes, garden eggs, tomatoes, lettuce, endive, onions, cucumbers, vegetable marrow, and finally as an experiment, coffee.

For fully nine months of every year, therefore, this garden, worked solely by the lunatics, will be able to supply both the general hospital and asylum with vegetables.

Manual labour in the garden has already produced very marked and gratifying effects in the condition of many of the lunatics. Of course every care is taken not to overwork the patients or to expose them unduly and for long periods of time to the sun. Their working hours are from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

The female patients are engaged in laundry work; the linen of the asylum and general hospital is washed by them.

Table showing the Number of Cases under Treatment in 1887.

Establishment.	Admitted on 1st of Sept. 1887.		Discharged in 1887.		Died 1887.		Remaining 31st Dec. 1887.		Daily average Number under Treatment.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Asylum - - -	14	5	1	Nil.	2	Nil.	11	5	8·97	2·83

The following infectious diseases were treated at the Contagious Disease Hospital during the year:—

	Number of Cases.
Small-pox - - - - -	1
Chicken-pox - - - - -	4
Measles - - - - -	2
Morbilli - - - - -	1
Total - - - -	8

No deaths occurred.

In conclusion, I would beg to call attention to the great need there is for the hospital and asylum to be enclosed by either a wall or wire fence.

An excellent substitute for a wall, which is a very expensive work, would be a barbed galvanised steel wire fence of 4 feet high, which is sold at 1*s.* 2½*d.* per yard, by Messrs. Bain and Co., Westminster, London.

The boundary line of the hospital and asylum, including the garden, is 500 yards; a fence to cover this distance would at the above rate cost 30*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, whereas a wall at 15*s.* per yard would cost 375*l.*

Of course I am aware that the cost of freight, &c. would have to be added to the price of the fence, which would doubtless raise it to probably 50*l.*; but then the cost of a wall of the same height would be seven times that amount.

Table I., showing the Number of In-patients treated at the Hospitals of the Colony during the Year 1887.

Accra Hospital.	Elmina Hospital.	Cape Coast Hospital.	Total.	Deaths.
421	405	301	1,127	39

Causes of Death.

Dysentery	3
Malarial remittent fever	2
Malarial intermittent fever	1
Cancer	2
Beri-beri	2
Syphilis, primary	1
Syphilis, secondary	1
Debility, malarial	1
Rheumatism, acute	1
Tumour	1
Scrofula	1
Anæmia	1
Pyæmia	1
Dropsy	3
Disease of brain	2
Disease of spinal cord	1
Disease of lung	4
Disease of intestines	2
Disease of liver	2
Disease of peritoneum	1
Disease of kidneys	1
Disease of scrotum	1
Disease of lower extremity	2
Burn	1
Starvation	1

GOLD COAST.

Table II., showing the Number of Out-patients (New Cases) treated at the Hospital and Public Dispensaries during the Year.

Accra Hospital.	Cape Coast Hospital.	Elmina Hospital.	Winnebah Dispensary.	Axim Dispensary.	Quittah Dispensary.	Addah Dispensary.	Total.
5,377	2,777	2,659	1,526	537	1,139	1,257	15,272

Number of old cases (attendances) treated during the year, 93,060; grand total of those who received medical aid during the year, 109,459.

Table III., showing the Number of European (including West Indian) Officials on the Sick List during the Year.

Remained on 1st Jan. 1887.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Average Duration in Days.	Largest stay on Sick List.	Cured.	Invalided.	Died.	Remaining at end of Year.
2	151	147	13·31	53	132	15	4	

Of the number treated 70 were admitted for intermittent fever
" " 13 " remittent fever.

Of the four deaths two died of remittent and one of pernicious malarial fever, complicated with hœmoglobinuria, and one of acute rheumatism.

3 were invalided for intermittent fever.
4 were invalided for remittent fever.
4 were invalided for pernicious malarial fever with hœmoglobinuria.
1 for hepatic congestion.
1 for malarial cachexia.
1 for hepatitis.
1 for jaundice.

The total strength of Europeans and West Indian officials resident on the Gold Coast in 1887 was 72, out of which 4 died and 5 were invalided.

Death rate, 5·4 per cent., or 54 per 1,000.

Per-centage invalided, 20·8, or 208 per 1,000.

(Signed) J. D. MCCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

Sanitary Report on Addah District.

Sanitary Condition.

The general sanitary condition of this station is good. Every available effort has been made to keep the towns and villages clean. The Towns Police and Health Ordinance was applied to this district last year, but its hygienic conditions would be improved if an Inspector of Nuisances and Scavengers were appointed.

Inspectors of Nuisances.

Dr. Cole recommends that two inspectors be appointed, but I believe one could perform the duty satisfactorily by his paying Big Addah a visit, say, twice a week. Besides, he would be under the special supervision and control of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Cole, who at all times performs his duties in an earnest and painstaking manner, and would see that the man did his work efficiently.

Scavengers.

Dr. Cole does not say how many would be needed, but I think five for Big Addah, and five for Addah Beach and Foah would suffice.

Cemtry.

A public cemetery is recommended, as the old one has been closed for about six months.

If anything will wean the people from the dangerous and disgusting practice of domiciliary sepulture the establishment of public cemeteries will do so more effectually than any other remedy can do.

Water Supply.

The pith of what Dr. Cole has to say on this subject is this:—

(i.) That iron tanks should be supplied for the use of the officials, and

(ii.) That wells be dug for the public.

There is certainly very good cause for the suggestion being made, as "the District Commissioner, the Medical Officer, and the official "staff are under obligation to the merchants and traders for their "precarious supply of water."

On his visit to Addah in February his Excellency the Governor was, I think, sufficiently impressed with the necessity of complying with the above suggestions without delay. Dr. Cole recommends that there should be five wells dug for the public, two at Addah Beach, one at Addah Foah, and two at Big Addah.

To prevent the soakage of surface impurities which occurs in all the public wells I have seen in this Colony, the wells dug by Government should always be coped, and the surface of the ground

GOLD COAST.

for about 20 feet in diameter around the well should be clay-puddled three feet deep.

Public Latrines

Are urgently required in Addah, as the "unpleasant odour "emanating from the beach is much complained of by the Europeans and intelligent natives living near it."

This was another subject which was discussed and settled when his Excellency was at Addah in February. The sites were then chosen for the latrines.

It is to be hoped that they will be erected with as little delay as possible.

In spite, however, of this sanitary deficiency the towns of Addah Beach and Addah Foah are kept in a very creditable state of cleanliness. The few convicts there are occasionally employed in sanitary work.

Everything, however, that is and has been done in this direction is due to the energy and zeal of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Cole. This is the second time in this report I have referred to this gentleman as a willing worker; it is not, however, in sanitary matters only but also in his professional duties that he deserves commendation.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of new cases treated during the year was 1,254 (790 males and 464 females); the number of old cases, or subsequent attendances, 2,188 (1,320 males and 868 females); making a grand total of 3,442 people who received medical aid at the Dispensary.

Itinerary.

Dr. Cole's monthly visits to Akusé and Pram Pram districts, which are included in the Addah station, were kept up as far as practicable.

SANITARY REPORT ON AXIM DISTRICT.

Sanitary Conditions and Requirements.

Dr. Heron states that the town is kept clean by holding householders responsible for the cleanliness of their premises. He gives Mr. Peters, the Inspector of Nuisances, credit for tact and energy. He recommends an increased number of dustbins to be supplied. The sanitary condition of the beach is bad, but Dr. Heron thinks that "judicial local legislation may result in marked improvement."

The District Commissioner would, I am sure, be glad to carry out any reasonable and practical suggestions offered to him on this subject by the Medical Officer of Health of the district; it would be well, therefore, if Dr. Heron made proposals to the District Commissioner for the cleansing of the beach at Axim.

Water Supply.

There is a small stream or brook of wholesome water running into the town from the forest behind and it is perennial. Dr. Rowland and myself, and I believe also Dr. Eyles, in former reports recommended a dam to be constructed in the brook at a convenient point of its course in town, and now Dr. Heron makes the same suggestion.

This is a consensus of opinion which, I think, ought to, and I have no doubt will, have weight with the Government. The dam, as Dr. Heron remarks, could be constructed by convict labour in a few days. Its cost would be little or nothing. This done, the people "would have a better water for drinking and cooking than the "impure specimen drawn from the wells."

With respect to the health reports, Dr. Heron remarks that the few patients who "submit" to treatment are only a small fraction of those actually sick.

The word "submit" is misleading, as it conveys the idea that the treatment is compulsory, instead of being, as it is, solicited by the people. The total number of cases treated at the dispensary in the year was 538, and the average daily attendance was 12·75.

SANITARY REPORT ON CAPE COAST DISTRICT.

Owing to his having been ordered to proceed to Aduabin in January, Dr. Sullivan had not time to submit as complete a report as he could wish. He lays particular stress on the difficulty of dealing with the refuse matter which collects in the outskirts of the town. "Here," he says, "are all the usual sources of atmospheric "pollution, such as putrefaction, combustion, and effete animal "matters to be found. Our present knowledge all points to the "conclusion that in morbid germs lie the power of a vast range "of diseased action, and, moreover, recognises in corrupted air the "nidus in which it is necessary for these germs to acquire their "full activity. Hence the urgent necessity for adequate measures "for the final disposal of the refuse, and this can easily be done "by burying or burning, and to do this the staff of labourers must "be increased."

When in Cape Coast last August I gave the Inspector of Nuisances definite instructions in the manner of dealing with these refuse heaps, *i.e.*, to divide his labourers into, say, three gangs and the suburbs into as many districts, in each of which a gang should be set to work twice a week burning the refuse heaps found there; were this plan carried out effectively the Medical Officer of Health, I think, would have little to complain of.

The above is the only complaint Dr. Sullivan makes respecting the sanitary condition of the town. Speaking from my own personal observation in August I am glad to be able to say, that (excepting

GOLD COAST.

some parts of the outskirts) the town itself was as clean as it is possible to keep any town on this coast; it was a credit to Mr. Allan, the Inspector of Nuisances, and I told him so.

Public Latrines.

The number of public latrines ought to be increased, but instead of an Assistant Inspector of Nuisances being appointed, as Dr Sullivan suggests, I would recommend that one of the labourers be made headman and receive 1*s.* per diem for assisting in the work of supervision.

Public Water Supply.

The question of the public water supply is one which, as Dr. Sullivan remarks, demands grave attention. The people for the most part derive their drinking water from wells in Catocroba district. I examined the water of two of these wells for sodium chloride only, and found 15 grains per gallon in one, and 20 grains in the other. This quantity of salt would not of itself render a water brackish, for it takes 75 grains per gallon to make salt perceptible to the average taste. Moreover, given a water otherwise pure—which, be it remarked, I do not think the water of these wells is—Professor Wanklyn is of opinion that, "arguing from the "apparent preference many persons have for water containing some "saline matter, 50 grains of salt per gallon should be added to "water to make it wholesome."

In the water in question, however, I am inclined to believe that a good deal of its saline (and probably other more noxious) constituents are derived as much from sewage as from any other source, for the whole immediate neighbourhood of Cotocroba has been, and is still, though to a less degree than formerly, used by the people as a latrine; the characteristic odour which prevails in the vicinity attests the fact. The soil must therefore be permeated by fœcal matter liquified during the rains. A sufficient supply of latrines in this part of the town would mitigate the evil last mentioned. The question as to the best method of supplying this town with a purer water than is now used is one altogether for the sanitary engineer's consideration; my duty ends when I point out the necessity there exists for such a supply.

Whilst on this subject I may remark that the military refused to use the water of the splendid tank lately sunk at Cape Coast on the grounds of its brackishness. I asked the military doctors, did they analyse the water? "No." Did they drink any of it? "No." The water was therefore condemned on mere suspicion, owing to the proximity of the tank to the sea. In the presence of Dr. Sullivan I made a quantitative analysis of a sample of this water for sodium chloride and found it to contain ·8 grains per gallon; I repeated the analysis, same result. So much for the opinion expressed of the character of the water, which in other respects was perfectly pure.

Public Health.

Dr. Sullivan states that the year 1887 was very unhealthy, and the mortality amongst Europeans high, malarial fevers being the cause of death almost in every case.

SANITARY REPORT ON ELMINA FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Public Health.

Dr. Rat reports that the health of Elmina district during the past year was, with exception of the second quarter, very satisfactory. During the second quarter an epidemic of remittent fever of great severity prevailed and caused the deaths of two Europeans in the Casle and two in the town.

Nine deaths occurred among the 400 patients which were received into the hospital during the year. The average daily attendance at the hospital of out-patients for the year was 96·29 and the average daily number of in-patients 18·56.

As regards the sanitary condition of the town, Dr. Rat has little to say, save to remark that "the medical officer who had charge "during the first quarter reports favourably" on that subject. Respecting sanitary requirements, however, Dr. Rat makes (amongst others) the following suggestions :—

Sanitary Requirements.

1. Four extra latrines are required for Elmina.
2. Two canoes should be purchased for the purpose of emptying the latrine vessels into the sea.
3. The number of scavengers should be increased to 12.
4. The rain-gathering areas at the Castle should be smoothly cemented.
5. The possibility of turning one of the rivers in the neighbourhood of Elmina so as to bring potable water into the town should be considered.
6. Domiciliary sepulture, which is practised at the village of Bantimah, should be abolished.

I fully concur in the above recommendations, and have no doubt they will receive the attention they deserve from the Government.

Disposal of Sewage.

Dr. Rat's proposition for the disposal of the town sewage is one which, if effectively carried out, would certainly succeed in its aim. It is as well, however, to examine the proposition and see if it be practicable.

The nine latrines now in use at Elmina contain each 10 buckets; if four more of the same size be added there would be 130 buckets to be emptied daily.

Two large canoes, say 25 feet by 4 feet, would convey 48 buckets in each trip, hence it would take three trips per diem to empty the buckets of 13 latrines.

The canoes need not be taken more than half a mile from the shore. To enable this work to be done rapidly the gang of scavengers should, as Dr. Rat suggests, be increased to 12 at least.

There is only one objection which might be made to this system of sewage disposal at Elmina, and that is, that the buckets would have to be conveyed in carts through the town to the beach. The benefit, however, which would be derived from the effectual disposal of the town sewage would far outweigh any temporary annoyance which its conveyance through the town might cause.

It must not be forgotten that, in trying to combat the difficulties which surround this subject, we are only endeavouring to solve a problem which is, and has been for years, the bane of all sanitary authorities in England and the continent, *i.e.*, the disposal of town sewage.

In spite of the small number of scavengers at Elmina Mr. Hodibert, Inspector of Nuisances, manages to keep the town in a very creditable state of cleanliness.

Public Water Supply.

The public water supply of Elmina ought to engage the attention of the Government. Water from the Sweet river might be brought into the town, but that is a question for the engineers and not in my province to discuss; besides, it has often been made the ubject of remark in previous sanitary reports of the town.

The Hospital.

I was pleased to see the cleanliness and order which prevailed in the hospital, of which Dr. Rat was in charge.

The surgical and scientific instruments were all in the most perfect order.

I am sorry, however, to have to state that the store account ledger was not kept up to date, and many articles in store which ought to have appeared in it were not taken on charge or in any way accounted for.

SANITARY REPORT ON QUITTAH DISTRICT.

Dr. Freeman in his report states that for all practical sanitary purposes the district may be said to consist of the two stations of Quittah and Danoe.

Quittah.

He thinks that although the town is provided with latrines the residence of Europeans has had little effect in modifying its sanitary condition. I presume he means by their example.

This is a subject one would like to dwell on, but it would only be labour lost to describe in detail the selfish apathy and obstructiveness of what is termed the "educated" class to every good sanitary scheme the Government propose for their benefit. Indeed, so dead is this class to the importance of sanitary improvements being made even in their very midst that there does not exist a single record of the simplest combined movement having been made amongst them to assist the Government in carrying out useful sanitary measures for their benefit. One thing they can do and never cease to do, however; they can indulge in adverse criticism of an obstruction to the Sanitary Act of Government. The ignorant natives are not to blame; they are, of course, led by this "educated" class, whose selfishness and utter want of healthy, honest, public spirit will ever retard the very best and wisest efforts the Government may make to give them sanitary surroundings.

The Town

Built on a sand-bank originally formed in a bay which, becoming separated from the sea, gave rise to the lagoon on which the town is situated.

At the north end of the town extensive marshes merge imperceptibly into the lagoon, the dry parts of which are extremely fertile. The salubrity of these marshes, however, is not equal to their fertility.

The Streets

Are straight and open and agreeably shaded by palm and other trees. The streets are covered with loose, white sand, which is both injurious to the eyes and fatiguing to walk on. Dr. Freeman recommends Bahama grass to be sown on them; a very good suggestion.

Official Quarters.

One of the four rooms comprising the quarters has for a long time been used as a dispensary and store-room; this was the surgeon's bedroom, who was therefore reduced to the use of one small room, and, by courtesy, to a share of the Commissioner's sitting room.

Gold Coast.

This, however, is now altered, for his Excellency has recently given a rent allowance to the surgeon, which enables him to obtain comfortable quarters in the Bremen Mission.

When the hospital is built, and I hope it will not be long before it is, the four rooms in the fort will then be available, and will afford ample accommodation for the two constabulary officers now stationed there.

The general appearance and comfort of these quarters would certainly be improved by the addition of a few pieces of furniture, a freer use of both the whitewash and paint brush, and some repairs.

Danoe.

This latter remark applies to the house at Danoe, which I know his Excellency has given orders to be repaired and made more habitable. In the event of a detachment being stationed at Danoe, Dr. Freeman suggests that a fatigue party of the Houssas be employed to construct a trench latrine for themselves under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health; this suggestion, which would also apply, and with greater force, to the cantonment at Quittah, is a good one.

Water Supply.

(1.) *European.*—Dr. Freeman says that the houses of the non-official Europeans are so badly provided with water tanks that they often depend on the small fort tank for their drinking water. In my opinion they ought not to be encouraged to depend on this source of supply. There is no possible excuse for these people not having sufficient tank storage; they are the agents of wealthy firms who are well able to supply their houses with tanks of ample capacity. The fort tank contains 5,000 gallons, but it most certainly ought to be supplied with a tap, as the water runs the risk of being fouled by "dirty dipping vessels."

(2.) *Native.*—Shallow wells supply the public with drinking water, which to my knowledge is of good quality, in the wells sunk at the north and south ends of the town and away from the lagoon.

As observed elsewhere, all wells dug by the Government should be coped and clay puddled a few feet deep for some distance around the wells.

Disposal of Sewage.

Dr. Freeman justly complains of the want of scavengers, whose special work now falls on the "continually fluctuating and always insufficient convict staff." At the time he wrote this "there was "only one prisoner, and the latrines were abandoned to their "fate."

Doctor Freeman strongly recommends the adoption of the trench instead of the bucket latrine at Quittah. I agree with him so long as they are made on the beach and not in the town or on the lagoon side. Whatever is done the ground water which feeds the wells must be saved from the certain contamination which such latrines would occasion if sunk in the vicinity of the wells.

Cesspits in Private Houses.

Dr. Freeman very properly condemns them and advocates the use of earth-closets. The cesspit is the native traditional mode of sewage disposal, and being so, anyone who knows this people will admit the hopelessness of ever getting them to see an advantage in any other system than that which they have inherited from their forefathers.

Health of the Europeans.

In common with those on other parts of the coast, the European residents of Quittah have suffered severely during the past year; the actual mortality has been 40 per cent., and there has been, besides, much sickness of a grave but not fatal character. The deaths which have occurred have mostly been due to the adynamic form of malarial fever complicated with hœmoglobinuria which has of late been so common on the coast; deaths were also recorded from dysentery, ardent remittent fever, and in one case from sporadic yellow fever. The death (rate) of the official population was better than that of the non-official; out of five officers stationed at Quittah one died from the pernicious malarial fever spoken of above, one was invalided with the same disease and the remaining three were from time to time visited by attacks of remittent fever of varying severity, but otherwise enjoyed fair health.

Health of the Natives.

There is nothing to show that the past year has been marked by an exceptional mortality amongst the natives, and no complaints have been made of any exceptionally prevalent diseases, although there is at present stated to be much sickness on the main land. The natives are somewhat reticent concerning their diseases, and the few descriptions that came to hand are not of a very lucid character; but from what I can gather, the principal causes of death would seem to be dysentery, a kind of bilious fever, malarial fever, asthma, and probably other diseases of the respiratory track.

Compared with the practice of an ordinary hospital, there is a considerable preponderance of surgical cases, the manifest superiority of the results of European method of treatment being apparent even to the prejudiced natives; their faith in civilized

Gold Coast.

medical treatment is much less, and the notoriously unsatisfactory results of out-patient medical treatment do not tend to increase it, and, no doubt, until the advent of the long-promised hospital, and with it the means of carrying out rational treatment under proper supervision, the people will continue to use native remedies in the great majority of cases.

Anyone perusing the foregoing reports might conclude that the efforts which have been and are still being made by his Excellency Sir William Brandford Griffith to improve the sanitary condition of the towns are not commensurate with the requirements.

It is true certain insanitary conditions are still being complained of and improvements suggested, but it must not be inferred from this that little has been done to mitigate the evils which formerly existed.

On the contrary, very great improvements have been made in all the towns, but in none more than in Accra, where they were most needed.

All the sanitary schemes, however, which have been carried out do not date farther back than the middle of 1885; since then (1) the public latrines, have been built; (2) the pigs nuisance abolished; (3) the public reservoir constructed; (4) four large water tanks sunk; (5) large areas of bush cleared; (6) new roads made and others widened; (7) a large drain over a mile in length constructed in Christiansborg; (8) two cemeteries opened; (9) the cliffs facing the sea on the esplanade at Accra walled in, a piece of work which considerably improves the appearance of the town; (10) last, though not least, the streets and roads in the neighbourhood have been lighted by paraffine lamps, which are as effective as many of the gas lamps one meets with in English towns.

Improvements of a similar nature to the above are also being steadily carried out in the other towns of the Coast; but in a country where public spirit is an unknown quantity in the social problem, rapid progress in matters of sanitary reform must not be looked for. Even were the people imbued with a healthy desire to assist the Government in carrying out sanitary measures, the irregular and confused manner in which the great mass of the houses are huddled together in the towns, together with difficulties of an economic nature will practically always tend to frustrate the attainment of anything approaching a standard of sanitary excellence in the towns of the Gold Coast Colony.

(Signed) J. D. McCarthy,
Chief Medical Officer.

SANITARY REPORT ON THE WINNEBAH DISTRICT FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1887.

J. DESMOND MCCARTHY, Chief Medical Officer, to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Dr. Easmon's report is so full of useful information respecting certain villages on the Coast, which have hitherto escaped attention, that I submit it entire.

Dr. Smith's recommendations, summarized by Dr. Easmon, are fully commented on in my general report for September quarter.

The sanitary condition of the Winnebah Station has been thoroughly dealt with by my predecessor or Dr. Spilsbury Smith, in his reports for the three first quarters of the year. He has pointed out—

(i.) The want of good and continuous supply of water for the people, for the Government officials, constabulary, and prisoners.
(ii.) The necessity for the erection of public latrines;
(iii.) The necessity for erecting a main drain through the centre of the town and the repairs of existing drains;
(iv.) The repair of roads;
(v.) The erection of dustbins in suitable places; and
(vi.) The employment of a body of scavengers with an Inspector of Nuisances to supervise them.

With all these recommendations I fully concur.

I was especially struck with the necessity of erecting a main drain through the centre of the town, and shortly after taking over general charge of the district I began to carry out the work by means of prison labour. I was not able, however, to finish it before leaving the district, but the work done was sufficient to encourage my successor to promise to undertake its completion. At present the sides of the drain are being supported by wattle-work. Later on it is hoped that when its utility shall have been demonstrated beyond cavil, the Government may be disposed to lay out the necessary expense for securing a more permanent support.

The sanitary condition of Appam, Berrakoe, and Cook's Loaf—Coast towns of the district—deserves attention as regards water supply and removal and disposal of refuse material. Berrakoe is a most horribly dirty town.

As regards the interior towns of the district, so far as my information extends, sanitation is in a very elementary condition; its scientific principles are unknown, and its regulations dictated by the ignorance and degraded superstition in which the natives are steeped.

The roads in the district, except those communicating between the beach towns, are in a very bad condition. I was unable to

Gold Coast.

travel through the entire district, which is a very large one, in the period of my service, but I had occasion to visit the interior towns of Gaitoikwan and Schwaidru, each about eight hours' distance by road from Winnebah, the former in a north-westerly and the latter in a north-easterly direction. Both roads were reduced to mere foot-paths, in many places almost knee deep in mud. I am of opinion that by annual subsidies to the Chiefs these roads could be kept in a usable condition, much to the comfort of passengers and the advancement of trade.

The Government public offices deserve some remarks in this Report. I have already reported upon them in my capacity as District Commissioner. As Sanitary Officer I may note that these offices, from their miniature size, defective ventilation and overcrowded condition, present all the worst characters which, from a sanitary point of view they could be capable of. And as regards the court-house, its invariably overcrowded state, defective ventilation, emanations from unwashed bodies in full perspiration, and its close proximity to the Customs Office, from which it is separated only by an incomplete wooden partition formed of old wooden doors, the least that can be said the better.

The fort remains uncompleted, its walls crumbling from atmospheric vicissitudes, and joints and timbers rotting from alternate soaking with rain and exposure to the fierce vertical rays of a tropical sun.

The establishment of the Government Public Dispensary, the only event of importance which the Sanitary Reporter for the year can look back upon with satisfaction, has done useful work in the district in relieving the sufferings of the indigent inhabitants; as usual, ulcers and diseases of the connective tissues have formed the principal affections treated; rheumatism of a subacute or chronic nature and syphilitic diseases rank next in importance followed closely by the endermic filaria Medinensis; catarrhal affections of the respiratory and intestinal mucous membranes also contributed largely to the numbers treated. As indicative of the appreciation by the inhabitants of the relief obtained it will be noted that from a total of 184 patients treated during the first quarter of the year the numbers had increased to 479 in the last quarter, *i.e.*, new cases.

Winnebah is remarkable as one of the towns on the Gold Coast in which horses and oxen will not live. A pony which I took to Winnebah died within six weeks after arrival there from glanders.

It is remarkable that on the left bank of the R. Ainsu two and a half miles east of Winnebah, and on the right bank of the Osu-kotoku or Appam river, 8 miles west of Winnebah, horses and cattle will thrive, and yet in the strip of land between these two rivers they invariably die. I was unable to ascertain definitely the cause of this mortality and had not much time to devote to the subject in consequence of the extent and variety of my duties. The natives, as usual, attribute it largely to the influence of Fetish, but everything with them is solved by an appeal to their Fetish.

I am unable in this communication to dwell at length upon the geological features of the district. Its auriferous nature is well known. What is remarkable from the point of view of natural history is the rugged and hilly character of the towns of Winnebah Appam, Mumford, and Tautum or Tuam, the inhabitants of which are so well known for their fondness for riots and civil strife.

The occupation of the people consists chiefly of fishing and bartering along the coast and of oil making and gold digging in the interior parts.

Plantains is the staple article of food. At the market town of Pomadi, two hours' journey from Winnebah, 40 to 50 large plantains can be bought for 3*d.*; at the "bush" end of the town of Winnebah, these are retailed at 30 for 3*d.* and in the town 20 for the same money. Yams also are plentiful; four large yams about two and a half feet in length can be bought for a shilling in the town of Winnebah.

Altogether food is abundant and cheap.

In conclusion, I would strongly urge that the recommendations of my predecessor, Dr. Spilsbury Smith, be carried into practical effect with the least possible delay.

(Signed) J. FARRELL EASMON, M.D.,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Cape Coast, February 6, 1888.

Gold Coast.

No. 2.

Acting Governor Hodgson to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
July 26, 1889.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1888, with the enclosures therein, consisting of reports from the Assistant Colonial Surgeons stationed at Accra, Ada, Axim, Cape Coast, Elmina and Kwitta; and a copy of my minute to the Governor. The pressure upon Sir Brandford Griffith's time prevented his forwarding these documents himself before leaving.

2. The want of cemeteries at Ada, Big Ada, Akuse, Cape Coast, Kwitta, and Pram Pram is pointed out in these reports. During the year one was provided for natives at Cape Coast, and its enclosure is in progress as pointed out in my minute. The provision of a cemetery at Ada has also been taken in hand, and I have addressed letters to the several District Commissioners at the other stations, directing them to take steps for the acquirement of the necessary land in suitable localities, and, where they are able to do so, to get it enclosed by the influence of the Chiefs with the people of the place.

3. The cost of the improvement in Accra referred to in paragraph 4 of my minute amounted at to least 400*l.*, and the pulling down of the houses was considered a great hardship by the natives, although they had a year's notice to clear out of them. It is obvious that street improvements will progress slowly in view of the cost involved. No doubt something could be done in the way of street improvement by enforcing the provisions of sections 8 and 13 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1878, if the Public Works Department were able to devote sufficient attention to the subject; but I will, as stated in paragraph 3 of my minute, give this matter closer attention, as soon as the map of the town is completed.

4. The provision of additional latrines and scavengers at Government expense has had to be stopped for the present in the existing condition of the finances of the Colony. I have, however, addressed a circular letter to the District Commissioners asking them to endeavour to induce the natives to construct simple latrines and cesspits for themselves outside the towns, as is done in some of the towns of the interior by the inhabitants. The inhabitants of the Coast towns are unwilling to submit to local taxation at the hands of municipal boards, so that they can have but little cause for complaint if they are called upon by the Government to help themselves in such an elementary essential of health. At Accra, with the concurrence of the Chief Medical Officer, a portion of the shore to the leeward of the town is about to be marked out by posts which the population will be allowed to use for latrine purposes until the Government is in a position to build the additional

latrines required, and which will be scavenged by the prisoners daily. GOLD COAST.

5. The improvement in the sanitary condition of Accra affords matter for congratulation, as does also the fact that the general health of the year compared favourably with that of previous years. The fevers were for the most part of the intermittent type. A total number of 16,767 cases were treated in the Government institutions. The total number of Europeans and officials resident on the coast was 72. Of this number the death rate was 5·5 per cent., and the invaliding rate 5·55 per cent. An interesting report by Dr. Prout of the metereological observations at Accra for the period will be found at page 41 of the enclosures in this despatch. The increased cultivation of the lands in the neighbourhood of the town to meet the food wants of the community is a further satisfactory sign. One of the pools in Accra, which have formed the subject of so much animadversion in times past, has been filled up by prison labour. It has since been planted with trees, and when these trees grow up, the open space which has thus been gained will be a great improvement to the town. The riot which took place in opposition to this work was reported to your Lordship. A large drain has now been excavated also by prison labour, for drawing off the water from the second or Salagha pond, and I trust that this, in its turn, may be filled up before the close of the current year. When this is done I think that market sheds should be erected on the site so as to bring home to the people the advantage of the action of the Government and to reconcile them to the loss of their dirty water supply. I have requested the Colonial Surveyor to prepare plans and an estimate of the cost. What is known as the Salagha market, which is the principal market of the town, is held in a small open space contiguous to the eastern extremity of the pool. The present market arrangements are far from creditable, and the filling up of the pool will provide a splendid site, and enable the Government to deal with the market question without requiring the people to move far from the place to which they have grown accustomed. I may here mention that I had an interview with King Tackie and Chief Akrama on the 16th instant, and informed them of my intention to proceed with the filling up of the Salagha pond at an early date. The latter, curiously enough, thanked me for the trouble the Government had taken in filling up the first pool, which is in his quarter, and engaged to take care of the avenues of trees which have been planted on it ssite.

6. Outbreaks of small-pox at Accra and in the Volta River and Kwitta Districts, and the successful measures which were taken to grapple with and reduce them, form a noteworthy feature of the sanitary measures of the year.

7. The construction of a separate hospital for the constabulary at Accra, of a hospital at Kwitta, and the erection of quarters for the Chief Medical Officer, and an Assistant Colonial Surgeon in close proximity to the hospital at Accra are desirable objects as

GOLD COAST.

soon as the funds of the Colony will admit of their being carried out.

8. Notwithstanding the shortness of the rainfall this year, I observed that the Victoria reservoir, referred to in paragraph 13 of my minute, was filled nearly as full as it would hold on a visit which I paid to it on the 8th instant, and it affords a large and complete water supply for the people of Accra. Prospecting for the selection of a suitable site for a similar reservoir at Christiansborg, which the Governor is anxious to carry out as soon as possible, has been conducted by the Colonial Surveyor, but Mr. Jones has not been able to find one as yet. Experimental wells have also been sunk in several places, but the ground has proved to be saturated with brackish water. The matter is still in hand.

Ada.

9. It has not been found practicable to appoint a sanitary inspector at Ada as yet, but the sinking of the wells pointed out as desirable there by Dr. Cole has been taken in hand. New constabulary barracks cannot be provided at present. I had the opportunity of visiting the Volta River, Ada, and Pram Pram districts in June. At Ada there is an excellent dispensary fully equal to the requirements of the town, an operating room, an office for the Medical Officer and accommodation for the dispenser. The arrangements are most satisfactory. The town is kept scrupulously clean and showed that it is well looked after. I may mention that I gave directions while at Ada for the old court house, which had not been used for many months, and was roofless and overgrown with weeds, to be converted into a market shed for the people ; it stood in the middle of a small square in the town in which the market people congregate. This has been done by the District Commissioner at no expense (the market people themselves having been induced to pay the cost) and with great advantage to them.

Axim.

10. Dr. Heron calls attention to the disadvantages attending the use of dustbins, which are recommended, on the other hand, by some of his colleagues and have recently been introduced in Accra and Christiansborg at the request of the health officers of those towns. The proper enforcement of the Public Health Ordinance rests with himself and the District Commissioner, and he has been doing duty in the latter capacity for a considerable period this year. The tank to which he refers has been withdrawn and brought into use elsewhere.

Cape Coast.

11. I am glad to see that the sanitary condition of this station is reported to show definite signs of improvement. A great deal has been done towards improving the drainage of the town, but

the adoption of the suggestions for preventing the fouling of the drinking water for the natives and for ensuring a regular supply for drinking and washing purposes must in a great measure wait until there are available funds. What can be done without cost will be done. The Governor gave instructions for the execution of the minor alterations at the hospital which were pointed out as necessary during his last visit to Cape Coast. I have directed the District Commissioner to excavate a cesspit for the reception of private sewage by means of prison labour, and to give instructions to the police to see that it is used and to patrol the beach with a view to the avoidance of nuisances. Directions were also given by the Governor for the provision of an hospital ward in the gaol and the work has been completed.

Elmina.

12. The swamp of which mention is made is being filled up by prison labour, as the Chiefs would not complete the work which they were requested to do by the Governor, and a pound has been put up. Several other improvements have been effected.

Kwitta.

13. The application of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance to outlying villages where a white officer hardly ever passes by and where its provisions could not be enforced, as recommended by Dr. Papafio, appears to me to be a measure of doubtful expediency. But wherever the extension of the provisions of that Ordinance can by any possibility effect any good they are extended.

14. It is useless in a country which may with no injustice be said to be only just emerging from habits far removed from European ideas to attempt too much. To do so retards progress, and in my opinion it is best to advance slowly but firmly rather than quickly and superficially. There is no doubt that substantial progress has been made in 1888, and I do not think that any recommendation for improved sanitation has been overlooked. If it has not been adopted, the reason has been due to want of funds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Gold Coast.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Medical Department, Victoriaborg,
March 25, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, and for transmission to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the enclosed Annual Sanitary Reports from the various medical stations on the Coast.

These reports would have been sent in at a much earlier date but for my absence in the interior from the 22nd of January to the 9th of March. Further delay has also been caused by the difficulty the Medical Officers at Ada and Kwitta experienced in furnishing me with the approximate death rate from small-pox in their respective districts for the half-year ended December 1888.

Accra.

Dr. Easmon's Report on Accra is the type of what such a report should be—clear, condensed, and to the point. It would be superfluous for me to say that I agree with him when he recommends the erection of a slaughter-house, market sheds, the filling in of the filthy pools (open spaces 28 and 29) and the intersection of the town by wide streets; for reports on these subjects have been on previous occasions submitted by myself and other medical officers who from time to time have been stationed at Accra.

In the last paragraph, under the head of "general remarks," Dr. Easmon states that some expression of individual experience of the several medical officers of the colony on the subject of "black water fever" might throw some light upon this obscure field of West African Pathology.

During the epidemic of this grave disease in June 1887 it occurred to me and the assistant surgeons then resident in Accra, that a collation of facts on this subject, derived from the experiences of those medical officers of this Colony who have had the opportunity of treating and studying the nature of this disease, would be of inestimable value not only to the medical staff of the Colony but also to all physicians practising on the coast.

I am still of this opinion, and my colleagues have lately strongly expressed their concurrence therein.

With a few remarks on the sanitary condition and requirements of Christiansborg, Dr. Prout's report consists chiefly of an analysis of vital statistics compiled from the registers of the Colonial hospital at Accra. There is no information which could be asked for on this subject that Dr. Prout does not supply, and that in the most consecutive and succinct manner. His complaint of the want of due ward space in the Accra hospital is in every sense a just one. It was built at a time when the Houssa force stationed at Accra, was never over 200 men, and when the population of the town was fully 5,000 less than it is at present; hence the ward space was then, as a rule, fairly adequate to the requirements. The constabulary (excluding the Fanti police), now stationed at

Accra, number over 600 men, that is a force equal to a British regiment on the peace establishment, which has usually a staff of three surgeons and hospital accommodation fully equal to that at Accra. The West Indian troops at Cape Coast number about 200, and they have for their exclusive use as large a hospital as that at Accra and a staff of two surgeons. When it is known that the per-centage of admissions of Houssas and Fanti police into Accra hospital is 73 on the total admissions, and that the wards are now dangerously overcrowded by them to the comparative exclusion of the public, who have as great a claim on the charity as any class of Government officials have, it will be seen how absolutely necessary an extension of hospital accommodation at Accra has become.

Dr. Prout further calls attention to the need there is at present for the erection of quarters for an assistant surgeon in the vicinity of the hospital. The late Governor Young admitted this to be a necessity, and had intended to provide them. If it was deemed necessary in his time, it is, *à fortiori*, doubly called for at present, and for the reasons given in paragraph 7 of Dr. Prout's report.

Cape Coast.

In this report Dr. Rât gives extracts from those of the three previous reports submitted respectively by Drs. Easmon, Lloyd, A.M.D., and Waldron.

Suggestions 3 and 6 in Dr. Lloyd's report for second quarter I strongly support. In the rainy season the dispenser's room is rendered almost uninhabitable by the rain beating in through door and window; an overhanging eave would rectify this. The space in the passage facing the dispensary would suit admirably as a ward for foul cases, which is badly needed. To cement the floor and cover in one of the arches with a wooden partition is all that is required.

Under the head of "Requirements," Dr. Waldron in the third quarter's report enumerates no fewer than 13, of which those numbered 3, 4, 7, 9 are of importance, and ought to be carried out as soon as possible.

Dr. Rât in the fourth quarter's report asks to have the number of scavengers now employed (16) raised to 20 and two extra carts supplied to them. He also recommends that the number of public latrines should be doubled. With both of these recommendations I agree. Cape Coast is fully as large a town as Accra, and yet there is nearly double the number of scavengers employed and latrines supplied in the latter as compared with the former town. He further asks for five carts for assisting in the rapid conveyance of buckets from the latrines, and gives good reasons why that number should be supplied for this special purpose.

Elmina.

Having been at Elmina in February and having inspected the town and its suburbs in company with the District Commissioner,

Gold Coast.

I was glad to find it as clean as the very inadequate gang of scavengers employed could be expected to keep it.

This is the fifth time I have inspected Elmina since 1885, and it is due to Mr. Hodibert to say that I have always found it in the same creditable state of cleanliness. Next to Mr. Allan, Inspector of Nuisances at Accra, Mr. Hodibert is unquestionably the most efficient and painstaking inspector in the service. Some time ago he was reported by the then District Commissioner of Elmina for inefficiency consequent on his assumed ignorance of the provisions of the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance." As a matter of fact the only part of the Ordinance with which he was unacquainted was the supplement No. 1 of 1888, of which, however, he had never seen a copy. When such Ordinances are enacted a sufficient number of copies should be issued from the Colonial Secretariat to heads of departments for distribution, otherwise ignorance will prevail on subjects with which all officials should be conversant.

The gang of scavengers at Elmina should be increased to 12, for, although the short-sentenced convicts are now employed to empty the latrine buckets—a matter of necessity, as the scavengers refuse to do that work—it is found that nine scavengers cannot cope as successfully with their work as they are expected to do in that large town. Two works of great sanitary importance have been completed, viz., the embankment on the left bank of the river Bayah, and the large drain which runs through the centre of the town.

Axim.

Dr. Heron finds the old system of disposing of the town refuse an improvement on that now in use, *i.e.*, by dustbins. As Medical Officer of Health for the district he is not only allowed but expected to exercise his judgment in such matters, and have that system carried out which he by experience finds most suitable and efficient.

Kwitta.

Dr. Papafio's remarks, in his report, on the insanitary conditions of the outlying villages of this district are worthy of notice.

In page [65], under the head of latrines, he shows why it is necessary that a gang of scavengers should be employed to do the work now often imperfectly done by prisoners.

In page [66], he dwells on the necessity which exists for a hospital at Kwitta; when he wrote this, however, he was not aware that it is the intention of the Government to build a hospital at that station. I only hope that nothing will be allowed to prevent the work being completed this year.

Ada.

Dr. Cole's exhaustive report on this district calls for no remarks from me. I would, however, draw special attention to his remarks under the head of "Requirements."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. D. McCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

SANITARY REPORT ON THE ACCRA STATION FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1888.

(A.)—GENERAL CONDITION.—

(1.) *Sanitary.*

The sanitary condition of the town of Accra is at present satisfactory on the whole. There still remains, however, much to be done to meet the sanitary requirements of such a rapidly developing town.

The compulsory enforcement of the provisions of the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance," so far as this can be done by the Sanitary Department, aided and supported by the District Commissioner, and the rigid supervision of the details of sanitary labour have resulted in a very highly improved condition of the town, which contrasts most favourably with the past, and robs Accra of the old bad name it possessed of being the dirtiest town along the Coast.

The general health of the community has been, on the whole, good. Both in the number of sick and the severity of illness the year under review compares very favourably with previous years. Among Europeans generally and natives also, the prevalent type of fevers was intermittent. Among European officials three deaths occurred, two from black water fever (acute malarial hœmoglobinœmia) and one from diarrhœa. It is worthy of note that cases of dysentery, so common formerly among the natives, were markedly few during the year.

(2.) *Moral and Social Condition of the People.*

Of the moral and social condition of the native population much of interest, ethnographical and sociological, may be noted; regarded, however, purely from the health point of view, the system of overcrowding of individuals and "compounds" of huts which generally obtains as direct result of their social system is deserving of most serious consideration: for the great part played in the evolution of moral progress by the physical surroundings of a people is now-a-days generally admitted, and although one may not be prepared to

Gold Coast.

concede the wide extent of such influence that would satisfy a Grant Allen or a Wallace, yet the effect, to a certain degree of influence, cannot for a moment be doubted. And it may be stated that, in general, in proportion as the physical health of a community is injuriously affected by such external influence, so is the progress of society prejudicially modified.

A barbarous community, the individual units of which are swayed by various and conflicting tribal and religious feelings, here pagan, there Mahommedan, elsewhere so-called Christians, yet all pervaded by the common vices of barbarism: low, cunning artifice, deceit, with a sprinkling here and there of a few semi-educated persons known vulgarly as "Scholars," characterised by great ambition and little attainment—such is the mosaic constituting the Accra community. But no blame is to be attached to these people for their present social condition. Their vices are the vices common to all barbarous peoples, in all epochs and under every zone; American traditions, Asiatic records bear witness to it, as well as those of Europe, and the Iliad as well as the Niebelungen. The people are intensely lazy; laziness is their besetting sin.

But we have evidence around us even now of energy exhibited by them when necessary—as cooks, stewards, coopers, carpenters, &c.; the men leave their houses for varying periods of time to earn their livelihood in the Oil Rivers, and on the south-west coast of the continent, returning home with their savings, and building houses of a more substantial nature and of a better class than those in which they had been born and reared; the women are excellent petty traders and hard workers, and all the land around the town of Accra is being fast put under cultivation to meet the demands of the growing community. For all practical purposes, indeed, the people may be regarded as in the infantile stage of their moral evolution: what they will develop into must, to a large extent, be determined by the external influences, physical, political, moral, by which they are surrounded. Consequently it becomes the duty of those responsible for the public health of such a community to recognise this phase of its social condition, because such a recognition not only affords conclusive argument against objections to anticipatory measures of reform, but also serves, or should serve, as incentive to action. The pig nuisance has ceased, the public latrine system is admitted useful and good, but passive opposition on the part of the people to sanitary improvements still continues. The people will not understand that breathing foul air is as bad, if not worse, than drinking foul water. The question of the ventilation of the town by the limitation of overcrowding is now the subject of absorbing interest. Streets have been mapped out, but as yet only preliminary measures have been taken in regard to their construction. This is a matter of urgency, and for this reason all our efforts at sanitation must prove abortive in times of danger if we permit the existence in the overcrowded compounds of so many foci affording nidus and pabulum for the development of morbific germs and the pollution of the atmosphere.

The sanitary chain is, after all, only as strong as its weakest link.

The people require to be educated; educated, however, not only in the smattering knowledge of books, not alone in the acquisition of the mechanical arts which some erroneously believe to be the panacea for all their social deficiencies; educated, not by the half-and-half system so fatal to real progress, but educated so as to fit them for comprehending the value of the benefits of civilization; educated in short, by drawing out their latent mental capabilities through every portal of sense, by acting upon the cerebrum through every channel of sentient impulse.

The difficulties in practical sanitation in this country are similar to those which have been experienced and are being experienced in India, and the remedy herein suggested is that which has commended itself to the Government of that vast peninsula. On this subject the "Indian Medical Gazette" thus observes:—

"The advantage of general education, which implies a raising "of the standard of living, a progress from savagery to "refinement, is no doubt the cardinal condition of appre- "ciation of the need, use, advantage, and comfort of sani- "tation. Special education in the laws and requirements "of health is also highly useful as impressing on the young "the fundamental maxims of hygiene. But the most "promising and practical method of sanitary education "is *the demonstration of the utility and luxury of sanitary "arrangements and requirements. A man who has tasted "clean water and breathed an atmosphere kept habitually "pure by proper drainage and conservancy is not likely "to rest content with foul drink and fœtid air.*

* * * *

"It is not enough that the people should be told and taught to "know what is good for them in this respect. This kind of "knowledge is very excellent in its way, but it is infinitely "better that *the people should be taught to feel by ex- "perience how much sanitation contributes to render life "more agreeable and secure.*"* (*Editorial*, Sept. 1888, p. 275.)

(B.)—REQUIREMENTS.

1. *Removal of Excreta.*

(*i.*) *Latrines.*—These are insufficient in number and those in use most disadvantageously situated: at least three more beach latrines and 12 more land latrines are required. And to carry out the system of land latrines satisfactorily, not only to the olfactory nerves of those living in, or having to pass by, the vicinity of them, one watchman would be required for every

* The italics are mine.

GOLD COAST.

two adjacent pits and one for each pit when these are placed far apart, the object being that dry earth may be thrown over the contents of the pits hourly by them, and persons prevented from committing nuisance outside and around the latrines. The four men employed for this purpose at present have been found to be insufficient.

(*ii.*) *Dust pits.*—The disposal of waste products other than human excreta is a subject the importance of which increases with the growth of the population. It is desirable that prevision should be exercised in this matter, and that, too, at once, so that land for the purpose may be acquired by the Government. Also the question of preventing the access of rainwater to these pits, directly or indirectly during the wet season is one of great importance, for, do what you will, if the contents of the pits are allowed to get wet, fermentation—in other words, the development of dangerous microbes—must take place. Some movable covering for the pits should be constructed and the pits made of uniform superficial dimensions. These pits will have to be closely watched, especially during the night, to prevent their being used as latrines.

2. *Disposal of the Dead.*

A cemetery for the Mahommedans is much [needed] by the exclusive followers of Mahomet in the community. The Government have a special interest in this matter as a large portion of the Constabulary (Haüsas) belong to this religious sect.

3. *Slaughter-House.*

The necessity for a slaughter-house is much felt; there are about a dozen butchers who systematically carry on their trade daily.

4. *Market Place.*

The present market place is too small for the wants of the people. If the pond situated in "open space" No. 29 be filled in and "open spaces" Nos. 26 and 27 thrown into one with it, the available space would be obtained. Market sheds should then be erected as at Cape Coast and Elmina, to protect the vendors from the weather.

5. *Ponds to be filled in.*

The two large filthy and foul ponds (open spaces Nos. 28 and 29) should now be filled in, as the people have an ample supply of good water for drinking and other purposes from the Government public reservoir. The spaces thus reclaimed would then become "open spaces" in the sanitary sense, and one of them may be devoted to the purpose referred to in the preceding paragraph.

6. *Widening of existing Streets and construction of New Streets.*

The necessity for these measures is so palpable, and has been so often impressed upon the Executive, that it is futile to say more. Otoo Street, one of the main thoroughfares, has been allowed by successive District Commissioners to be so overcrowded with children and hawkers as to have become nothing more nor less than a public nuisance. The new streets already mapped out ideally as well as actually, both in the old towns and in the new (Hausa) town or "Salagha" should be constructed without unnecessary delay.

(C.)—ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

This forms a part of the hospital returns at this station and will be duly submitted by the Assistant Colonial Surgeon in immediate charge of the hospital.

(D.)—GENERAL REMARKS.

(i.) The epidemic of small-pox which broke out in the latter part of the year at this station has already been reported upon by me. The necessary precautions were taken to limit the spread of the disease and with marked success. At the end of the year there was not a single case of small-pox at this station. Total number of small-pox patients under treatment was 39, of whom 8 died and 31 were discharged cured. 1,945 cases were vaccinated, of whom 1,619 were "successful." The high death-rate among the patients suffering from this disease was the result of the defective resisting and recuperative powers of the poorly-fed native population.

(ii.) The suggestions I have made, if carried out, will necessitate the expenditure of money. Is such expenditure justifiable? If so, why? I trust I have supplied data for a reasonable reply to these queries.

(iii.) Lastly, if two thirds of the deaths among European Officials occurring during a most favourable year resulted from that pernicious form of malarial disease known as the Blackwater fever, it appears to me that the time has arrived when the questions may be asked: What is the disease so described? and what is the best treatment to be adopted, prophylactic and curative, in its management: Some expression of individual experience of the several medical officers of the Colony might throw some light upon this obscure field of West African pathology and relieve each and every one of us of some of that most terrible anxiety which is felt when a case of this dreadful disease occurs amongst us.

(Signed) J. FARRELL EASMON,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon
and Medical Officer of
Health for Accra.

Gold Coast.

Sanitary Report on Christiansborg for the Year ending December 31st, 1888.

To make an annual Sanitary Report on a district implies a certain amount of local knowledge, but when a medical officer has only been in the Colony for nine months and in the special district reported on for a period of some three months, the matter becomes one of some difficulty. Remarks as to sanitary improvements, or statements as to the comparative healths of different years, must be practically valueless during one's first tour of service, and under these circumstances such a report must perforce be confined to a mere statement of facts culled from statistical returns and otherwise

Hospital.

1. And, first, as regards the hospital, it will be observed that during the past year there have been 501 admissions, consisting of 480 males and 21 females. (This, however, includes 39 cases of small-pox treated at the Contagious Diseases Hospital.) The number of females seems small but it may be pointed out that during a certain part of the year the female ward was utilised for males owing to the demand for beds.

2. On analysing the 480 male cases we find that they may be divided into the following classes:—

Europeans - - - -	7
Native officials - - -	10
Houssas - - - -	283
Fanti police - - - -	72
Paupers - - - -	108

That is to say, 355 Houssas and Fanti police admitted out of a total of 480, or a per-centage of 73, on the total admissions. The result is that owing to the limited space at our command many of the class for whom the hospital was, I believe, originally intended, are refused admission, and this has been felt more markedly since the headquarters of the Gold Coast Constabulary have been removed to Accra. It will be evident, therefore, that an extension of the hospital accommodation is urgently required.

The prevailing diseases will be seen from a study of the accompanying statistical return to have been:—

Filaria medinensis - - - -	76
Skin diseases - - - -	54

This includes ulcers, which are very common and occur in a very aggravated form—

Malarial fevers - - - -	31
Gonorrhœa - - - - -	29
Injuries to lower extremities - -	25
Intestinal complaints - - -	23

4. The mortality during the past year has not been great, there having been only 28 deaths (excluding those from small-pox) or a death rate of 60 per thousand, not by any means a large hospital death rate. Among these is included one European, who died from a severe attack of paroxysmal hæmoglobinuria after an illness of three days.

Out-patients.

5. During the year the number of new cases has reached a total of 5,204; the total number of attendances has been 14,110 while the average daily attendance has been 28·68.

6. The prevailing diseases have been (1) intestinal complaints, 829. This total, however, includes a very large number of trifling cases of colic and constipation. Diseases due to insects, 551. Among these I have included craw craw and chigoes.

Rheumatic complaints - - -	616
Skin diseases - - - -	535
Bronchial affections - - -	384

7. I have already pointed out the urgent necessity of hospital extension, and, in this connexion, would further draw attention to the indispensability of having quarters for the Medical Officer in charge erected near the hospital. When it is borne in mind that in addition to the increased number of native patients, there is a European ward which has been taken advantage of during the past year and which will probably be used still more in the future, the advantages of having a resident Medical Officer are so obvious as to require little comment. A European patient in this trying climate requires constant, frequently hourly, attention, and this care cannot be bestowed in the same thorough manner when the medical officer resides at a distance, no matter how willing he may be to sacrifice his own comfort and convenience or, perhaps, even his own health. In addition to this the position is a central one, placed, as it is, half way between Accra and Christiansborg.

Hospital for Contagious Diseases.

8. An outbreak of small-pox took place during the latter part of the year and a considerable number of cases were admitted into hospital. This epidemic has been reported on by Dr. Easmon, in whose charge the district was at the time.

Christiansborg.

9. Christiansborg is a town which lends itself to cleanliness more than the generality of native towns. The houses are well separated and the streets are for the most part wide and well-kept. The number of latrines is, however, insufficient for the requirements of the population and two more at least, should be erected—if possible, situated towards the sea. Were this done it would

GOLD COAST.

conduce considerably towards the cleanliness of certain parts of the town.

10. The water supply of Christiansborg is deficient both as regards quantity and quality, being derived, as it is, from a number of water holes in and round the town. When these become exhausted during the dry season water has to be brought from some distance. A reservoir similar to, but of smaller size than, that which supplies the people of Accra would be a great boon to the inhabitants of Christiansborg.

The Lunatic Asylum.

The returns attached will show the number of admissions and discharges during the past year, and it will be observed that the number of inmates has been increased by five, thus bringing the total up to 21. The number of deaths appears at first sight to be somewhat high, but it must be pointed out that the majority of these were old people, and also that the state of health of a patient on admission is usually so unsatisfactory that even a long continued course of good feeding and treatment fails to restore them. A coroner's inquest was unvariably held and a verdict of death from natural causes was returned in all instances. The most common cause of death was diarrhœa.

The general treatment, apart from special cases where medicinal interference was required, consisted simply in endeavouring to restore the general health of the body and mind by good feeding and systematic exercise and labour where possible. Males were occupied in whitewashing and cleaning the ward and also in cultivating the gardens attached to the asylum, a form of labour which is particularly valuable n the treatment of the insane; while the females found sufficient employment in attending to the linen both of the Colonial Hospital and Asylum.

I would strongly recommend two improvements to the asylum:—

(i.) The erection of a substantial wall or fence round the whole of the garden. This would increase the exercise ground considerably as at present a certain class of patients have to be kept almost entirely within the walls of the asylum proper, there being no obstacle to prevent their escaping from the garden.

(ii.) The removal of the general medical store from the asylum buildings. The present position of the store at the back of the female ward is to my mind a highly undesirable one. Stores are being carried in and out; messengers have to pass backwards and forwards, and there is a general movement which it is impossible to prevent, and which I do not consider is conducive to the welfare of the female patients.

(Signed) W. T. PROUT,
Superintendent.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

GOLD COAST.

The return attached shows the results of the meteorological observations taken throughout the past year, and may be summarised as follows:—

I. The mean monthly maximum shade temperature varied from 88·53° (April) to 82·58° (August). (This refers to the maximum readings for the 24 hours; lower readings are always obtained in the morning, *e.g.*, in August the monthly mean of the maximum shade readings at 9 a.m. was 77·93° while the mean for the 24 hours was 82·58°).

II. The highest shade temperature recorded was 93° on the 11th April.

III. The mean monthly minimum shade temperature varied from 69·97° (August) to 75·13° (February). (This also refers to readings for the 24 hours, the afternoon readings are always higher.)

IV. The lowest shade temperature recorded was 65° (18th January, 25th July, and 26th August).

V. The mean monthly solar maximum temperature varied from 139·25° (July) to 148·76° (April).

VI. The highest reading throughout the year was 159° (7th April).

VII. The mean monthly terrestrial minimum temperature varied from 65.83° (August) to 72.86° (April).

VIII. The lowest reading throughout was 60° (10th January).

IX. The average relative humidity varied from 86·45° (August) to 71·16° (November). The highest degree of saturation (95°) was reached on three occasions in March, whilst the least amount of moisture in the air was in January (2nd and 6th), relative humidity 54°).

X. The extreme daily range of temperature was 18° (March 1st and 2nd).

XI. The extreme monthly range varied from 23° in January to 14° in December.

XII. The extreme annual range was 28° (viz.: from 65° to 93°).

XIII. The yearly mean range of temperature was 12·49°.

XIV. The mean temperature throughout the year (obtained by taking the mean of all the maximum and minimum readings was 72·29°).

XV. The total rainfall throughout the year was 44·96 inches and was greatest during the months of May and June (13·57 inches and 10·63 inches respectively). The greatest rainfall on any one day was 3·65 inches on the 29th May.

(Signed) W. T. PROUT,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

RETURN showing ADMISSION and DISCHARGE during the year 1888.

Type of Disease.	Remained from last year 1887.		Admitted during the year 1888.		Discharged.				Died.		Remained at the end of the year 1888.		Remarks.
					Recovered.		Relieved.						
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Mania - - -	8	3	15	3	4	—	—	—	6	2	13	4	
Melancholia - -	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	
Dementia - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
General Paralysis -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Epilepsy - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Other disease - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total - -	11	5	17	3	4	—	—	—	8	3	16	5	

(Signed) W. T. PROUT,
Superintendent.

To the Chief Medical Officer.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS taken at ACCRA from January 1st to December 31st, 1888.

Period.	Thermometers.						Hygrometers.				Dew Point.		Relative Humidity.		Extreme daily Range.	Mean Monthly Range.	Wind.				Rainfall.	Greatest fall in any one day.	Observations.
	Solar Maximum Radiation.	Terrestrial Minimum.	Shade Maximum.		Shade Minimum.		Dry Bulb.		Wet Bulb.								Direction.		Force.				
	9 a.m.	9 a.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.			9 a.m.	5 p.m.	9 a.m.	5 p.m.			
January -	139·39	67·07	81·51	86·06	74·22	76·06	78·16	81·70	73·87	74·97	69·74	70·35	75·41	69·31	16		N.E.	N.E.	4·75	4·97	·43	·43	
February -	140·31	70·65	81·20	86·58	75·13	76·86	79·86	82·47	75·50	77·62	72·67	74·38	78·93	76·45	17		N.E.	N.E.	6·55	6·69	·33	·20	
March - -	146·06	71·64	83·97	88·06	74·93	79·45	82·13	85·00	76·55	79·10	72·74	75·99	73·87	74·00	18		N.E.	N.E.	5·36	4·00	1·98	·75	
April - -	148·86	72·26	83·66	88·53	74·90	80·10	83·23	85·30	77·23	79·60	76·66	75·44	72·10	73·56	17		N.E.	N.E.	6·20	6·06	3·14	2·23	
May - -	144·93	71·11	81·32	86·77	73·67	75·93	82·58	82·74	74·90	77·48	71·85	74·31	74·71	74·93	17		N.E.	N.E.	5·16	6·38	13·57	3·65	
June - -	146·20	71·16	82·16	86·03	75·03	76·46	80·43	82·30	76·60	77·96	73·99	75·07	80·90	78·23	13		N.E.	N.E.	6·46	5·66	10·63	2·74	
July - -	139·25	68·96	78·90	83·90	71·00	74·35	75·38	76·45	71·93	73·38	69·47	71·22	83·54	84·00	16		N.E.	N.E.	7·54	7·03	0·21	0·21	
August - -	141·06	65·83	77·93	82·58	69·67	74·35	74·45	76·09	71·29	72·83	69·11	70·53	86·45	82·80	17		N.E.	N.E.	6·77	6·54	0·05	0·03	
September -	146·40	69·70	81·36	85·03	72·03	74·53	76·40	79·20	72·63	73·83	70·05	70·15	80·46	74·36	16		N.W.	S.W.	6·06	5·93	1·15	·75	
October - -	141·64	69·74	81·51	85·80	73·12	75·09	78·38	80·83	73·35	75·12	70·27	71·27	74·93	72·90	15		N.W.	S.W.	6·38	7·22	2·46	1·72	
November -	144·60	70·46	83·36	86·13	73·86	75·13	81·36	81·66	75·33	76·76	71·94	72·99	71·46	71·16	15		N.W.	S.W.	5·60	5·93	··58	·46	
December -	141·29	70·87	82·70	86·35	74·35	75·22	80·74	80·74	75·96	77·90	73·06	74·41	76·70	74·87	14		N.W.	S.W.	6·06	5·87	·43	·41	

(Signed) W. T. PROUT,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer.

Gold Coast.

Sanitary Report on Ada Station for the Year ending December 31st, 1888.

Extension of the District.

By an Order in Council dated 15th November 1888, the Ada district has been enlarged and embraces all the territories with the following boundaries, viz.:—"On the north-west a straight "line drawn from Great Mingo to Duffo Island in the Volta river, "excluding Great Mingo and including Duffo island, on the north "and east the Volta river, but including Attititeh on the right bank "at the mouth of the river; on the south the sea." Within this area there are many towns and villages of more or less importance. The population of Ada District may be fairly estimated at 40,000 inhabitants. The medical duties of this station includes periodical visits to Pram Pram and the River Volta districts.

The principal towns of Ada district are Ada, Big Ada, Aggravie, Battor, Blappah, Mlefi, Galoo and Tamatoku. All excepting Tamatoku are situated on the banks of the River Volta.

Ada, commonly called by the natives Small Ada, or Adafo Beach, is divided into Ada on the Beach, River Side, and Adafo proper. Here the European merchants, German missionaries, and principal Government officials reside, and it is the depôt of all the merchants trading in the Volta district.

It is on the sea-coast and the surf is notoriously bad and is considered the worst in the Colony. It is a flat and sandy town.

Ada is the cleanest and most well kept of all the towns in the district, and I insist upon the people carrying out the simple rules of hygiene. They have already realised the beneficial effects of attending to the elementary laws of health, but they so easily relapse from my instructions.

Ada abounds in cocoanuts, so that it is justly called "the town of cocoanuts."

The occupation of the people is mostly that of fishermen, canoemen, and farmers. Farming, however, is carried on to a very limited scale.

Big Ada.

To the natives of this district Big Ada is the most important town. It is about five miles from Ada and on the right bank of the River Volta. The principal native merchants, chiefs, headmen, and captains reside here, and it is the head quarters of the fetish priests of the district. This is an overcrowded town, the majority of the houses are made of swish, thatched roofs, small, ill-ventilated, and thickly peopled. There are, however, some large houses here built after European style, and most of them decorated with expensive furniture.

Just above Big Ada is the Angô Creek, which affords facilities for smugglings into the Volta district *viâ* Battor and Vlo. This is the most populous town in the district. There are no streets. The water supply is very deficient and during the dry season the

people have to go a great distance for their supply on account of the River Volta being brackish and unfit for use. When the river overflows its bank in the wet season the town near the river part is flooded and the footpaths are impassable. This is also the case after heavy rains. The result is that in most parts of the town, there are small stagnant ponds filled with organic matter in which I have seen boys and girls bathe. These ponds produce diseases of all sorts, especially guinea worm, and render the air foul and disagreeable, especially at night. I have paid several visits to this town during the year, and at the last time I saw most of the Chiefs and advised them to do their best in carrying out my instructions on the sanitary improvement of the town.

I have done the best I can to improve this town, and there is a marked contrast from its past history.

The natives here take every advantage of the practice of the Colonial dispensary. The drawback to their availing themselves more of its benefits is the three creeks (Fitoi, Small and Large Lowe) from there to Ada by overland route.

His Excellency the Governor on his last visit to this place, went over the creeks from Ada to Big Ada by hammock and promised the people that bridges will be built over them.

The bridges are now in course of erection and the natives are jubilant and very grateful to the Governor. The bridges have been a long-felt want and in a short time it is hoped that it will be possible to ride or drive to Big Ada.

During the year his Excellency was pleased to grant a go-cart and three men for the use of the Medical Officer at this station. This is a great boon to the Medical Officer, as it will enable him to visit this town more frequently and give the people the opportunity of obtaining medical treatment. The cart boys are employed when the cart is not in use. I employ them on such occasions in making new roads, improving the streets, sanitary work, and to act as hammockmen when I travel.

The population of Big Ada, is about 7,000 inhabitants. There is no recognised king, but I am reliably informed that one will be crowned in a short time. The occupation of the people is that of canoemen, merchants, petty traders and farmers, but, as in Ada, farming is not carried on to any great extent.

Aggravie, Mlefi, Battor and Blappah, are towns on the right bank of the river, each with a customs officer and a few policemen engaged in the suppression of smuggling.

Galoo is the limit of the district on the north-east and the left bank of the Volta river. It is a market place for the interior trades. The inhabitants are very migratory. It is the chief centre of smuggling viâ Dabara and Bey Beach into this district and the Volta. A few policemen are stationed here. The inhabitants are composed mostly of Awoonahs, Adas, Aggravies, Houssas and people from the far interior. It will thus be easily seen how diseases spread from this place.

The Colonial Dispensary.

It is now two years since the public dispensary was opened in Ada by me, and I am happy to say that the people still continue to avail themselves of the benefits of European medical treatment. Notwithstanding the prejudices and suspicions of the fetish priests when the dispensary was started, I have got some of them and their followers amongst those who have applied for medical aid at this dispensary.

From all parts of the district patients come for treatment. The total number of patients treated during the year was 2,857 cases. The total amount realised from non-dieted paying patients at the dispensary during the year was eighteen pounds (18*l.*)

The want of a non-dieted Colonial Hospital.

In my last annual report I alluded to this subject, and from my further experience of this district I consider the demand an imperative one. Serious cases (especially surgical) always present themselves for treatment, requiring operations and subsequent supervision and care.

I called attention to this subject immediately I opened this station. In my letter to the Chief Medical Officer, of 27th November 1886 I wrote as follows:—

"In suggesting the building of a suitable dispensary, I did so with the object of affording a useful adjunct to the boon of medical aid and treatment now placed within the reach of the general public of this district, Pram Pram and the Volta River.

"The people have commenced to appreciate the benefit of proper medical treatment and I am happy to say that many are availing themselves of the benefits now afforded them by the Government and I believe the results wished for by the Government will be more than realised if a dispensary is built where certain acute and serious cases can be admitted and treated at the expense of the patients as regards diets.

"A dispensary built of swish with corrugated or asphalt roof and with an upper story where about 12 patients (males and females) can be admitted and treated, and a basement where the official and other professional work of the district can be performed, with a drug store and an accommodation for the dispenser who should always reside there and be at hand in cases of accident or urgent medical cases requiring prompt attention, a waiting and examining room for the patients, is what is required at present for the district.

"Many cases of acute and serious diseases have come under my notice since I assumed the duties of my office here, the course of which could have been more speedily arrested by judicious treatment, care and attention in a dispensary of

this sort, than in the houses of the people, which are small, ill-ventilated, overcrowded and with such unhygienic surroundings which rather retard than aid the process of recovery in disease.

"In the absence of a suitable dispensary here I have made it a point to see all serious cases at their own houses, as it is impossible for them to come here daily without danger to their lives. They seem grateful and in many cases are able to undergo the expense of dietary and stimulants when specially ordered."

This application was not entertained in consequence of the amount of work which the Public Works Department was engaged in at Accra and other stations. I trust, however, this difficulty will soon be out of the way and Ada be favoured with a suitable hospital.

Public Latrines.

I have in former reports drawn attention to the want of latrines in this district. The nuisances complained of in the reports alluded to have abated in a measure, but until suitable latrines are erected on the sites I pointed out in my reports the nuisances will continue to some extent. The people will, I believe, avail themselves of the use of the latrines.

Water Supply.

The question of water supply has been dealt with in former reports. In the absence of a Government tank for storing rain water, I advised the sinking of a well for the special use of the District Commissioner and the Medical Officer, and other wells in the town for the general public. There is, at present, a well between the District Commissioner and the Medical Officer's quarters dug by the landlord of these quarters at his own expense. The well being his private property there is no control over it by the Government, and I have seen grown-up women, boys and girls going down into the well in a state of semi-nudity to recover buckets, calabashes, country cloths, &c. which may have dropped in; and besides, the rush of the people for the water makes the well supply an inconstant one. The natives bathe near the well at night, and when any remonstrance is made they allege that they have the permission of the landlord to use the well water It is not used by me or the District Commissioner for drinking purposes and we have still to rely on the local merchants for our supply of drinking water. The inhabitants of the district are sadly in need of water and they have to go great distances for the well water of private individuals. The well water in this district is of fairly good quality.

The difficulty of obtaining drinking water by the officials will, I hope, soon be removed when the proposed Government buildings are erected, as we will then have a large area for gathering rain

GOLD COAST.

water in tanks. At Big Ada during the dry season the inhabitants have to go across the Volta River to a small village for their supply. Some of the women (whose work it seems to be) cross in canoes, others wade the river with pots on their heads to get to the village. The latter mode is rather risky, especially when the current is strong and the river running downwards to Adafo river-side into the sea.

Cemeteries.

The necessity for a Government public cemetery has been urged in former reports. Intramural sepulture still continues in this district. There is a small private cemetery belonging to the Basel Mission Society and in which none but Christians are interred. It is well known the number of Christians is very small and therefore the majority of the natives are buried anywhere, in the bushes and houses. There being no public cemetery, the provisions of "Ordinance No. 7 of 1888" "to "provide for interments in cemeteries and to prohibit intramural "sepulture" cannot be enforced.

The Pig Nuisance.

It is with much pleasure that I state that the pig nuisance in the town of Ada, including Beach, Adafo, and Riverside is now a thing of the past. By rigidly enforcing, in the early part of the year under review, whilst I was performing the duties of District Commissioner, the provisions of the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance No. 10 of 1876," I cleared the town of Ada of all the pigs in it in less than a week. I took this matter in hand personally and went from house to house to see that the pigs are removed away from the town, and the numerous styes pulled down. There is not a single pig to be seen to-day in Ada, and all the nuisances they were committing are now unknown. At first my action was viewed with disfavour; but when the benefit of a prompt removal of this nuisance was explained to the people they readily agreed with me and facilitated the removal of what I had always considered the greatest nuisance in the district. In the absence of a slaughter-house or public market, I make it a point to make surprise inspections of the meats, &c. exposed for sale in the streets.

By Government proclamation, dated 15th November 1888, by his Excellency Sir Brandford Griffith, the keeping of swine in Ada town within certain limits is now prohibited, and the limits are as follows:—

"Those parts of the towns Adafo, Ada on the beach, and Riverside, which are bounded on the south by the sea, on the north and north-east by the River Volta, on the east by a straight line drawn from the village of Azazama due north to the River Volta, and on the west by a straight line

drawn from the point on the beach one mile beyond the western fence of the Basel Mission Factory, and running thence due north to the River Volta."

The "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance" was applied to Big Ada in May last soon after the visit of his Excellency the Governor to the district, and after the 15th of February 1889, by the same proclamation above mentioned, the keeping of swine is also prohibited. This will in a great measure improve the sanitary condition of the town. I have stationed one of the acting Inspectors of Nuisances in Big Ada temporarily. The limits within which pigs should not be kept at Big Ada in accordance with the above proclamation are as follows:—

"That part of Big Ada which is bounded on the east by the Volta river, on the south by a straight line drawn from the village of Allata on the said river to the village of Carbiaway, on the north by a straight line drawn from Salem on the said river to the village of Lonorbiaway, and on the west by a straight line drawn from Carbiaway to Lonorbiaway."

It is now an admitted fact by the people that the pigs were a nuisance and they are now pleased at the action I took in removing them from Ada.

As soon as possible after this date I hope to visit Big Ada and see what has been done by the Chiefs and people with reference to the sanitary measures I recommended to them (including the pig nuisance) on my last visit in December 1888.

The Gold Coast Constabulary.

The total strength of Fanti police at this station is 30. They are chiefly engaged in assisting the Customs officers in the suppression of smuggling, which is rife in this district and the Volta. They patrol the river with Government krooboys, who act as canoemen under the superintendence of Customs officers.

The constabulary barracks at Ada is insufficient in accommodation for the number of men in it. Some of the men are obliged to sleep at night in the open air outside the barracks and others live in town, at their own expense for rent.

The want of a suitable barrack will, I hope, be supplied when the proposed Government buildings are erected.

The chief complaints from which the men suffered during the year were guinea worm and rheumatism. The cause of the guinea worm may be traced to the Vockvie pond, to which I alluded in my report for the quarter ending September 30th, 1887, and which is situated a few yards behind the police barracks.

The men were sheltered from the "draught and the offensive "odour emanating from it by the changing of the position of some "of the windows and doors" by District Commissioner Bascom.

In this, which is a filthy, stinking pond, the men bathe. Not only the policemen but canoemen and other natives, who reside in

the neighbourhood and bathe in this pond, suffer from the same disease. It was impossible in consequence of the heavy rains in previous years to attempt to fill it up. Fortunately during the year under review there was very little rainfall and on my return from leave of absence in November last after due consultation with the District Commissioner we decided to close the pond by filling it with sand, and at the time of my writing this report the work is nearly completed by prison labour. The permanent result of this labour, however, will depend upon the quantity of rainfall during 1889.

There are other similar but smaller ponds in the town. In due time steps will be taken to have them filled up.

The Small-pox Epidemic in Ada District.

During the latter half of the year under review, small-pox was prevalent in the district. The first cases of small-pox came to my knowledge on May 27th, 1888, as reported in my sanitary report for the quarter ending June 30th, 1888. Two men from Adedome on the left bank of the Volta river were the patients and they stated that they contracted the disease from Adedome. As soon as possible they were isolated in huts at Azazana village on the beach and necessary precautionary measures and treatment adopted. They made favourable recovery.

In July last whilst the District Commissioner was making a tour of inspection through the district he came across several cases at Galoo and Galoche on the eastern bank of the Volta River.

Galoo, as I have stated before, is a market place. There traders from Ada, Kwitta, Volta district, &c., meet from Bey Beach and Dabara, a very large market place out of the Protectorate, where contraband goods are purchased and smuggled into the places above mentioned. Traders from Salagha and the far interior meet there also. I have no doubt in my mind that Galoo is the centre from which all the cases this year originally sprung. In September, October, and November the total number of cases in the district was 29.

Immediately on my return to the district in November 1888 from leave of absence, information reached me that there were many cases hidden in the houses of the people at Galoo. I went there at once and found out 12 cases, but the people were unwilling to be removed to the huts erected for their reception by the District Commissioner. In a few days after 27 more cases were discovered and on the whole 47 cases were treated in December. Total number treated from June to December 76.

It is surprising to see how indiscriminately the people associate with the patients.

The boys and girls affected would be seen taking their food with others who have never had small-pox and sleep with them in the same rooms and on the same mats, &c.; mothers and fathers with or without small-pox live with their children and other

relations in all stages of the disease. Strangers and visitors from neighbouring towns and villages and the interior live with them regardless of the consequences. The result is that the infection is carried about by means of the people from town to town and district to district. But it is very difficult to get reliable information from the people, and I am reliably informed that a great many persons perish from the disease without our knowledge, the friends having kept us out of the information. Isolation of the cases was one of the precautionary measures adopted to check the progress of this disease, but the people are very much averse to be removed from their houses. At Galoo they burnt the huts erected for their reception by the District Commissioner to show their disinclination to go there.

The Chiefs of Galoo have little or no influence over their people, and the influence of the fetish priests over the people of the district acts as a deterrent to their recognising the benefits of isolation or European treatment in small-pox cases and vaccination.

During the year vaccination was carried on. The total number successfully vaccinated was 1,456. There are great numbers in this district unprotected by vaccination, and my experience is that it will be some time before the people will willingly submit to it. In a district like this the compulsory Vaccination Ordinance must be enforced with caution and discretion.

The people of Sopey and those upwards to Duffo Island are the most averse to it in this district. I speak from personal experience. Such is the dread of the people for vaccination that, excepting on the sea-coast towns, the appearance of a medical officer causes the people to vacate their towns and villages with their children, leaving the aged and infirm. By persuasion and patience, however, they will in time recognise the benefits of vaccination, and especially as experience has taught the natives of Galoo that those who were protected by vaccination were free from small-pox, or had only a mild form.

The General Sanitary Condition of the District.

With the exception of the small-pox epidemic the health of the district has been on the whole good during the year under review. Of the non-official European residents one died here. This was a German lady from child-bed. Other Europeans suffered from mild types of remittent fever.

There have been few deaths among the natives. The chief complaints among the natives were pulmonary affections, rheumatism, guinea worm, yaws, and skin diseases.

The removal of pigs from Ada, the destruction of the cactus trees, and my personal supervision of the sanitary measures recommended to the people have aided in the improvement of the town. There is no doubt that there is an appreciable difference in the sanitary condition of the district, and old residents, native and Europeans, have often expressed this to me.

More remains yet to be done, and it is to be hoped that the few requirements suggested for the welfare of the district will meet with favourable consideration and adoption.

The Sanitary Requirements of the District.

(1.) *Wells.*—From my previous remarks it will be readily seen how absolutely necessary it is to supply this want. (*a*) I would respectfully suggest that three wells be sunk at Ada, two for the residents on the beach, and one for the people at Adafo and Riverside; (*b*) two for Big Ada, one near the riverside and the other between Lonorbiaway and Carbiaway.

(2.) *Public Latrines.*—Latrines similar to those at Accra and Kwitta should be erected as soon as practicable on the following sites:—

Four along the beach at Ada.
One between the beach and riverside.
Two at Adafo, and three at Big Ada.

(3.) If the latrines are erected it will then be necessary to have scavengers, four for Ada, and two for Big Ada. Prison labour is so uncertain here that it cannot be depended upon to do this work.

(4.) A Government cemetery at Ada, and another at Big Ada are very much needed, and should be attended to soon.

(5.) The permanent employment of two inspectors of nuisances. One for Ada, Big Ada, and Aggravie; and the other for Galoo, Sopey and as far up as Duffo Island in the River Volta.

(6.) A non-dieted Colonial hospital.

(7.) The opening up of streets at Big Ada

Sanitary Report on Volta River and Pram Pram Districts.

Volta River District.

As stated at the beginning of this report it is part of the duties of the Medical Officer of Ada to make periodical visits to the above districts. I have visited the Volta District as often as it was possible during the year. There is a small dispensary—supplied with drugs, &c. from the Colonial Dispensary at Ada—at Akuse, the principal town of the district under the District Commissioner's quarters. During my visits the inhabitants came in good numbers for treatment.

Small-pox was rife in the district during the year. As in Ada, it is difficult to get reliable information about the whereabouts of small-pox cases in this district. In a letter on this subject the District Commissioner wrote to me as follows:—

"The difficulty is to get the natives to inform you of any cases that occur in the outlying towns and more particularly

in the scattered bush villages where it is quite possible cases may still exist, and I am informed that some two months ago when the small-pox was rife there were several cases in these bush villages that were not reported to the Government."

During the epidemic a medical officer was sent specially from headquarters to attend the cases and perform vaccination in the district.

The pig nuisance has also abated in this district by the action of the District Commissioner, and the limits of the pig boundary which have been applied to Akuse and Pong are as follows :—

Akuse.

" That part of the town which is bounded on the east by a straight line drawn from the bank of the River Volta to the village of Gorchong, on the south by a straight line drawn from the Gorchong to F. M. Adade's place (commonly known as Tea Gardens) and by another straight line from there to Christian Hazard's farm, on the west by a straight line drawn from Hazard's farm to the banks of the River Volta, and on the north by the River Volta."

Pong.

" That part of the town of Pong which is bounded on the east by the River Okoi, on the north by the River Volta, on the west by a straight line drawn from the village of Adenkra to the village of Nnaso, and on the south by a straight line drawn from the village of Nnaso due east to the River Okoi."

Akuse is the headquarters of the European and native merchants trading on the Volta river. The chief articles of produce are palm oil, kernels, and rubber, which are towed by steam launches to Ada where they are shipped in steamers to Europe and America.

The towns of Akuse, Akropong, and Odumasie are clean and fairly well kept.

Two Europeans (non-officials) died at Akuse during the year. One from hepatic disease and the other from valvular disease of the heart, and a third took ill—blackwater fever—at Akuse and died at Accra.

Sanitary Requirements of Akuse and Pong.

(1.) *Public Latrines.*—(*a*) Four public latrines should be erected at Akuse—one for Daplamah, one for Agreedo near the market place, one at Sierra Leone Road, and one in front of the lagoon near Amedica.

(*b.*) Pong.—Two latrines—one to be placed at the market place, and the other behind Swanzy's factory.

(2.) *Wells.*—Two for Akuse—one near the District Commissioner's quarters and the other midway between the Basel Mission Factory and Sierra Leone Road.

(3.) *Public Cemetery.*—Very necessary for Akuse. The merchants and other inhabitants petitioned the Government some time ago for one, and the site selected by them was a very good one. One also is required for Pong.

Pram Pram.

This is a small town on the sea coast. It is divided into an upper and a lower town. The sanitary work is performed by the gaoler under the supervision of the District Commissioner, and the town is clean and well kept.

There were only three cases of small-pox in this district during the year, and the first was traced from the Volta river.

During my periodical visits to this place I attended the officials, policemen, and general public. It is satisfactory to state that the people appreciate proper medical treatment and avail themselves of it when I go there. The District Commissioner has placed a small room in the court-house at my disposal to attend the sick during my visits.

Sanitary Requirements of Pram Pram.

(1.) *Wells.*—Two; one each for the people of the upper and lower town.

(2.) *Latrines.*—Two; one each for the upper and lower town.

(3.) *Public Cemetery.*—One midway between upper and lower town.

(Signed) SYLVESTER J. COLE, M.B.,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon in
Medical Charge.

25th January 1889.

SANITARY REPORT ON AXIM DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1888.

There has been nothing during the past quarter deserving of special attention from a sanitary point of view. The public dust-bin system has not been found an unmitigated benefit. Like every inch conceded to the natives, it has resulted in their taking several miles from the giver. Before the establishment of the dust-bins, every householder was compelled to keep his own premises clean. There were then no carts to go round and carry out of the town the refuse of most of the neighbouring houses, and each and every occupier burnt or carried away the daily sweeping

of his hut and yard. As it is now, householders simply collect their rubbish and throw it in the nearest dustbin, with the result that each of those four receptacles is quickly full, and on the site of each dust box there is soon a large heap by the roadside, which is offensive to sight and smell. Now comes the opportunity of that oviparous creation which produces the aqueous egglings of the Colony—the half-starved scavenger fowl of Africa. These scarecrows, with the tastes and habits of vultures, simply revel in the dust boxes, in total contempt for the Inspector of Nuisances; and thus spread widely around a mass of refuse which takes the prisoners an hour to re-collect in the morning.

The question, therefore, arises, Are the dustbins to be done away with and the Public Health Ordinance enforced; or are the number of dust-bins and the expense of scavengers to be increased? The writer has lately directed that no refuse heaps will be allowed in future by the roadsides, and that householders must either burn their own rubbish or carry it to one of the four dust heaps outside the town; and the four dust-boxes have thus been withdrawn.

The most important duty of the scavenger prisoners is to burn the dust heaps on every possible occasion; and as the rain here mostly falls towards noon or afterwards, it is possible, by constantly setting fire to the rubbish collected, to keep the accumulation under control.

The enforcement of the Public Health Ordinance seems to cause a good deal of irritation, but it is rarely summonses issue and fines are inflicted.

Except a slight epidemic of measles, which lasted about six weeks between August and October, there have been no cases of infectious disease. As nearly as can be computed about 5 per cent. of the number atacked with measles were sent to the dispensary.

The water supply for officials has been ample for the last 12 months, and there has been apparently no scarcity in the town. The system which the writer introduced for limiting the use of the Government tank and well has answered the purpose for which it was intended. A Fanti policeman is told off for the special purpose of superintending the water supply, both to officials and to those inhabitants of the town who apply.

The tank is opened for about half an hour each day, and the well from three to four hours, and both are kept locked at other times.

In both cases a clean chain and zinc bucket are used, and no other utensil whatever is allowed for drawing water. Thus the very gross pollution of the water from dirty tins and filthy ropes which was customary before is now absolutely prevented.

As nearly as can be computed from 60 to 80 people get water from the Government well during the hours in which it is open; but only a very few are supplied from the tank.

GOLD COAST.

If considered necessary an arrangement might easily be made for supplying (according to season) from 20 to 50 of the townspeople with two gallons each of the tank water per diem for drinking purposes. As, however, the inhabitants seem quite content to drink well water, it would not seem requisite to interfere unless they move first; well water is mostly used by European officials for baths, &c., being softer and more cleanly than the limed water off the roofs. It seems odd that the antediluvian method of lowering down and hauling up a bucket should be the prevalent one in use for drawing water on the Coast. Not to mention the windlass and the suction pump, there is the American chain pump which the writer has seen much used elsewhere. This simple contrivance consists of an endless chain with discs working in a tube about one inch and a half in diameter over a skeleton wheel at each extremity.

There is still in store here the new 45*l.* iron tank, which arrived in February, 11 months ago.

The writer does not consider there is any present necessity for the erection of such a tank at Axim, at least as far as the Government employes are concerned.

As regards storing water to give to the natives, it is questionable whether in this place of constant rains such a procedure is requisite or advisable. Bamboo gutters and a tarred puncheon are within the reach of all who possess decent houses or huts; but there are no signs whatever of any attempts to store water to be found in the town. Since, then, the suicidal take-no-heed-of-the-morrow policy is so eminently characteristic of the natives, it may be doubted whether they should be encouraged to rely still more upon others for that help which should be self emanatory.

Although the work was put in hand as soon as possible after the unavoidable correspondence on the subject was got through, the damming of the rivulet proposed by the undersigned was not fully carried out during the dry weather. This was owing to delay in obtaining the lime after authority was granted for its purchase, and to the fact of the rains setting in rather earlier than was expected. The work will in all probability be completed next month. It may be mentioned, however, that the people in the neighbourhood have not seemed to appreciate the benefit of this half-finished reservoir in any way. Although there are nearly 200 yards of stream below the site of the dam, women prefer to wash clothes and men to bathe in the dam itself; and this in spite of the Chiefs having been repeatedly told in court of the proposed storage of water there for public use.

Several of the first offenders when arrested were reprimanded in court, and the last one or two fined (under the Public Health Ordinance) for polluting water intended for the use of man. Some time back it was asserted that the dam was being utilised as a fashionable bathing place by the privileged Fanti police; and although it has not been possible to prove that such is the case, it

is very probable that they are actually doing what has been stated to the writer as a fact.

(Signed) A. WOODBURN HERON,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Axim, January 1, 1889.

CAPE COAST DISTRICT—ANNUAL SANITARY REPORT, 1888.

FIRST QUARTER (DR. EASMON, District Medical Officer).

Condition.

Dr. Easmon reports that the condition of Cape Coast has shown definite signs of improvement. Much remained to be done, but what had been effected was satisfactory. The most important work during the quarter was the construction of the drain between the Wesleyan chapel and Low Town and the widening of some of the streets in connexion with this work.

Requirements.

The following requirements were mentioned:—

1. A drain to carry away the superfluous water from the southern and south-western slopes of Prospect Hill and the opposite slopes of Fort William and contiguous hills into the main drain at the foot of Connor's hill.
2. The water supply question is referred to as being *in statu quo.*
3. An increase in the number of dustbins and scavengers, and a rigid enforcement of the "Towns Police and Public "Health Ordinance."
4. The abolition of intramural sepulture.
5. A more spacious building for the Government school.
6. The conversion of the two rooms of the Supreme Court into one, and the proper ventilation of the building.

Health of the District.

The health of the district was fairly good, there being very little sickness among the Europeans.

SECOND QUARTER (DR. LLOYD, A.M.D., District Medical Officer).

Condition.

Dr. Lloyd reports that sanitary rules had been carefully attended to and that the general sanitary condition of the town had been satisfactory.

GOLD COAST.

Requirements.

The following recommendations were made:—

1. The water supply question as before.
2. He endorses Dr. Easmon's recommendations on the subject of dustbins and a more spacious Government school.

He mentions as having been sanctioned by his Excellency the Governor the following improvements:—

3. An overhanging roof to shelter the quarters of the dispenser and dressers.
4. A lamp to be erected in the centre of the hospital yard.
5. The paving of the hospital yard.
6. A ward in the hospital to be partitioned off for foul and contagious cases.
7 A bridge to be built over the gutter in front of the side entrance to the hospital.

He regrets that, at the date of his report, none of these improvements had been commenced.

Health of District.

Europeans.—Health indifferent, paroxysmal fevers and their sequelæ prevailed.

Natives.—Health during latter portion of quarter bad. Malarial fevers, catarrhal affections, and measles were the chief diseases among the natives.

THIRD QUARTER (DR. WALDRON, District Medical Officer).

Condition.

Dr. Waldron describes the malaria-evolving power of "the wild "and luxuriant growth of brushwood and the mud-walled buildings," and reports that there had been some refreshing showers, which had made the weather pleasanter since August.

Requirements.

He makes the following suggestions:—

1. The appointment of a public vaccinator.
2. A registrar of births and deaths.
3. A public cemetery.
4. A public mortuary.
5. The clearing and maintenance, by the Chiefs of the district, of the Freetown road.
6. The repair of many of the roads, especially the one leading to Fort William.

7. A drain to be built in connexion with the road leading to Fort William.
8. Repairs to be made to some of the small drains.
9. A public slaughter-house.
10. An increase in the number of scavengers.
11. A go-cart and three krooboys for the use of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon stationed here.
12. The number of latrines to be doubled.
13. The formation of a water company for supplying the people with water.

Health of the District.

There was a "tolerable amount of sickness" during the early part of the quarter, but in the latter part of it the health of the community was "wonderfully good."

FOURTH QUARTER (Dr. WALDRON, 1st October to 13th December; Dr. RÂT, 14th December to 31st December, District Medical Officers).

Condition.

The town of Cape Coast is remarkably clean and well drained, but the sanitary condition of its suburbs leaves something to be desired. Its streets are well swept and well lighted; its inhabitants are well fed, cheerful, and apparently happy. Its population is said to be 16,000, the Europeans numbering about 20.

Drainage.

The declivity of the site on which the central part of the town is built affords every facility for drainage, and this is performed very effectively by numerous small drains which empty themselves into what may, without exaggeration, be described as a magnificent main drain.

Latrines.

There are nine public latrines, each containing 12 movable receptacles. Four of these latrines are on the seashore at the south of the town, and the others are placed at different parts of the suburbs, west, north, and east of the town.

Scavenging.

There are nine latrine men and 16 scavengers, under the immediate direction of a sanitary inspector, who receives instructions from the Assistant Colonial Surgeon. The latrine receptacles are carried by the latrine men on their heads and are emptied in holes dug in the ground at a sufficient distance from the town. The town refuse is carted away and deposited on the beach at

a considerable distance away from the town and burnt. The streets are kept perfectly clean, and, by the help of disinfectants, the latrines are kept from being offensive.

Water Supply.

Europeans.—The European officials draw rain-water from the Government tanks, which are three in number, viz., one at Government House (capacity 156,411 gallons), two at Gothic House (capacity 21,312 and 26,300 gallons respectively), and a third by the sea (capacity 80,000 gallons).

Natives.—The natives get their water from wells sunk at different parts of the town, viz., the Market wells, the Kotokraba wells, the Aboom wells, and the well at Intin. There are two Government wells, one at Aboom and one at Intin. The water of the market wells is too brackish to drink and too hard for washing purposes. The Aboom and Kotokraba wells are about a mile from the sea, and a quarter of a mile from one another by road. As there is no one to look after the wells the water is contaminated with organic matter by the people, who wash their persons and their clothes around them.

The Colonial Hospital.

This institution can accommodate 31 patients, 19 males and 12 females. The number of beds is in proportion to the number of applications for admission.

The Gaol.

Seventy prisoners can be lodged in the gaol. The cells are lofty, and, judging from the number of prisoners confined there at any one period in the past, the accommodation is more than sufficient.

Cemeteries.

There is a Government cemetery for Europeans; but the natives bury their dead where they can. The Wesleyans have two large cemeteries for those of their sect; but for the natives generally there is no public cemetery. A portion of ground has been cleared between the Salt Pond and the road to Elmina; but it has not been enclosed as a site of a future cemetery for the natives.

The Market.

The market consists of four sheds placed between the town and the seashore by the highway leading to Elmina. These sheds and the space around them fulfil all the requirements of a market.

Requirements.

Drainage.

The central part of the town is well drained by the main drain and the numerous small drains which empty themselves into it, but the following parts require drainage, viz., the road north of Connor's Hill, the road from Kotokraba to the town proper (the road leading to Fort William), the road from Aboom to the Salt Pond,* and the market place. A stone drain should be built parallel to the road to intercept the water which now flows from the latter into the market place. It should be connected on the eastern side with the existing drain which bounds the market place on that side; and on the western side another drain should be built parallel to the present one.

That part of Cape Coast which lies west of Fort William, and is known as Freetown, is practically undrained. It is low-lying, very irregular, and difficult to drain. The people who occupy it are of that class who are accustomed to live on the borders of swamps, and there is therefore no pressing need for what would be an expensive undertaking in the way of drainage.

Scavenging.

The number of carts and the number of scavengers should be increased. There should be 20 scavengers divided into five gangs of four, three gangs for the town proper, one gang for the suburbs and one for doing special work, such as clearing drains and cutting down brushwood. There should be one cart to each gang, making five carts in all. As there are only 16 scavengers, and two carts at present, four more scavengers and three more carts are wanted.

Water Supply.

Europeans.—The Government tanks meet the wants of the European officials and the public institutions. The water they supply is good; but it would be all the more palatable if the tanks were cleaned at regular intervals and permanently ventilated by means of shafts.

Natives.—The wells for drinking water provided by the Government should be increased in number. They should have their mouths raised three feet above the level of the ground. They should be provided with wooden covers and trap-doors to be fastened with padlocks. Each well should be enclosed by a railing four feet high with a padlocked gate, the railing being six feet from the well; and the ground between the railing and the well should be carefully paved and cemented. A man paid by the Government should issue the drinking water to the people at certain hours,

* The first four by ordinary trenches.

using a clean pail for the purpose and transferring the water from his pail into the various receptacles brought by the people.

No other wells, except such as are similarly protected, should be permitted in the immediate neighbourhood of a drinking-water well of the kind proposed, and certainly not at any spot at a higher altitude.

All other wells for washing clothes and for ablution should be dug at considerable distances from the drinking-water wells and on lower ground. The vicinity of the wells should be thoroughly drained to prevent the stagnation and putrefaction of water.

The suggestion offered at the time of the Ashantee war, and so often offered since, that the Sweet river should be used for the purpose of supplying the town with water, is still only a suggestion. It is, of course, an undertaking which must be considered not only from a sanitary, but from an engineering, as well as from a financial, point of view, but it is one that a health officer must never cease recommending, however distant its accomplishment may seem.

Latrines.

The attendance at the latrines for one day was noted, and the following figures were the result:—

Attendance from 6 a.m to 6 p.m:—

Four latrines on the beach			1,902	persons.
One	„	at Freetown	762	„
„	„	at Royal Lane	350	„
„	„	at Intoto	1,059	„
„	„	at Tantrey	1,060	„
„	„	at Iden	958	„
		Total	6,091	

Considering that the population of the town is said to be 16,000, it would seem from the above figures, that the latrines should be at least twice as numerous as they are at present; but it must be remembered that it is the lowest and most destitute who resort to such places. Those who can afford it (*i.e.*, the majority of the people) use receptacles at their own homes, which are emptied in the bush and on the beach at night, and it is not to be wondered at that anyone who can possibly do without frequenting such places as these latrines, should avoid so much publicity and competition in the performance of a function for which privacy and leisure are so desirable. There are, besides, cases of disease in which a latrine at any considerable distance would scarcely meet the wants of the patient.

For these reasons it is to be feared that, however much they may be increased, the latrines on the present system will only reach a comparatively small portion of the population. To meet the requirements of those who will not use the present latrines in the manner intended other latrines should be built, as near to

those spots as possible, where the people are known to empty their home receptacles. It would then be as easy to empty these vessels inside as outside the latrines.

The places used for these nocturnal discharges of sewerage are the beach, and the bush, east, west, and north of the town, holes being dug in the sand and soil for that purpose. A certain number who live within a moderate distance of the latrines have their home vessels emptied in them; but those further off make direct for the beach or bush.

The number of latrine men is insufficient. No man can cope satisfactorily with 12 latrine receptacles used by nearly 2,000 persons a day, especially when it is considered that he has to walk a great distance with one latrine vessel at a time on his head. There should be, at least, two men to each latrine; and, instead of the men carrying the latrine vessels on their heads, which is a great waste of time, carts should be provided at the rate of one to every four latrines.

There should, therefore, be four more latrines erected on the beach, one between the present latrines and the Castle and three at equal intervals between the present latrines and a spot opposite to the last house facing the sea, and seven more in the suburbs at points to be selected by the Health Officer. There should also be five carts provided, one for every four latrines.* The latrines should be protected by a central roof over the present ones.

Hospital.

Two compartments are required at the hospital, viz., one for the isolation of foul cases and dying patients, and another for those who have undergone serious operations.

The Gaol.

An infirmary is required at the gaol. A wooden erection for 10 patients was proposed some time ago, but, as there is sufficient and suitable space in the gaol building for an infirmary, it would be better to utilize the already existing accommodation which is serviceable as it is, and, with but little alteration, would prove all that is desirable.

The Market.

To the present market sheds should be added another in which alone meat should be sold, after having been inspected by a sanitary officer; and it should be punishable by law to sell meat anywhere outside this place and without its having been first examined by the proper authorities.

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* Two policemen should be stationed on the beach during the day to prevent the committing of nuisances.

Gold Coast.

A Hospital for Contagious Diseases.

A hospital for contagious diseases should be built on the summit of one of the hills to the north of the town. It should consist of two separate buildings, at a sufficient distance apart from one another; one for the isolation of small-pox cases among the natives and the other for such infectious cases among Europeans as may arise in the town or be brought to it from abroad.

Cemetery.

A properly enclosed public cemetery at some distance from the high road is required for the natives. The custom of placing cemeteries by a public road is morally and physically objectionable.

Assistant Colonial Surgeon to Chief Medical Officer.

Sir, Elmina Hospital, January 12, 1889.

I have the honour to forward to you the Annual Sanitary Report for the year ending 31st December 1888.

First Quarter.

Another medical officer was in charge during this quarter, who strongly recommended the employment of six more scavengers and that one or more policemen should be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Department. He also recommended the erection of a pound and the removal of sheep from the streets. He advised the removal of the beach latrine to windward of the Colonial Hospital. During this quarter the new markets were completed, also the new main and side drains. The construction of the river wall on the north side of River Bayah was commenced. During the quarter two deaths occurred among the Europeans, one being that of an American merchant and the other that of a Roman Catholic priest. The Houssas' sick suffered principally from gonorrhœa and guinea worm.

Second Quarter.

During the first two months of this quarter another medical officer was in charge. There was no epidemic or case of any infectious disease. The wall on the north side of River Bayah was finished and the major portion of the swamp was filled up. Some parts, however, remained unfilled, and these I recommended should be filled up at once. One European official was invalided home through dysentery. One birth occurred among the female white residents. The patients treated in the Colonial hospital

suffered principally from gonorrhœa, guinea worm, and ulcer. The number treated in the out-patient department of both new and old cases was 556. One death occurred in hospital due to wounds inflicted.

Third Quarter.

No epidemic of an infectious nature occurred during this quarter. I recommended the employment of six more scavengers but no notice has yet been taken of it. I also recommended that the filling up of the remainder of the swamp on the north side of the River Bayah should be proceeded with at once. Several sanitary improvements were carried out. No deaths occurred among the Europeans. One officer was invalided home from an affection of the liver. The admissions to the Colonial hospital during the quarter were 87; 25 per cent. of these suffered from venereal diseases, the rest principally from guinea worm and ulcer. 711 new cases and 3,643 old cases have been attended to in the out-patient department. Two deaths occurred in hospital during the quarter.

Fourth Quarter.

No epidemic of an infectious nature occurred during this quarter. Four cases of small-pox, which were landed from a steamer from the River Niger, were isolated, which prevented the spread of the disease. The health of the district was fairly good. No deaths occurred among the white population. I recommended the increase of scavengers; they have not yet been increased. One assistant inspector of the Gold Coast constabulary and one Catholic priest were invalided to England.

Generally.

The health of both town and district during the past year has been fairly good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. ENGLISH,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

SANITARY REPORT ON KWITTA FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1888.

Colonial Dispensary, Kwitta,
January 7, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the sanitary condition of this district for the year that has just elapsed, at least for that portion of it during which I have had the honour of being in medical charge. During the year medical relief was

GOLD COAST.

afforded to one thousand three hundred and ninety-three (1,393) patients who attended at this dispensary. Of this number one thousand (1,000) were males, and three hundred and ninety-three (393) were females, giving an average daily attendance of 3·8, or the sick rate of 38 per cent. for the year.

The Weather

The weather has not been bad. The rains have not, comparatively, been so plentiful as is usually the case during corresponding periods of previous years. The general health very good, and I am not aware of the occurrence of any of the malignant forms of fever among the European section of the community.

The District.

This district comprises and embraces many towns and villages, which are more or less scattered over an extensive area. I have had occasion to visit the interior of the district once during my tour of inspection, and have been able to satisfy myself as regards its general sanitary condition, which, I regret to say, is far from being satisfactory. With one exception nealy every town or village depicts a deplorable sanitary condition. Any enlightened person visiting these places could not help observing the unsubstantial structure of the so-called houses, want of streets, filth accumulations in the numerous alleys and lanes, pigs walking about with their characteristic nuisances dogging their footsteps, slop-waters of every description thrown into nooks and corners, scavenging utterly neglected, and the water supply and disposal of excreta in the most primitive and worst condition. In view of this there should be no difficulty in accounting for the diseases which prevail among the inhabitants, such as rheumatism, yaws, and other forms of skin affections, and alimentary disorders of all kinds.

The Moral and Social Condition of the People

With regard to the moral and social condition of the people it may be inferred from the foregoing that in these areas where this excess of human suffering is bred civilization and morals must suffer almost equally with health. Hence intemperance, with dissipations of all kinds, is the general habit of the people ; education is but imperfectly appreciated, and, I must express it as my opinion, it is less likely to penetrate unless it is taught side by side with the rudiments of common hygienic principles. I respectfully suggest, therefore, the application and enforcement of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance in all the towns that have not yet come under the provisions of this Ordinance. Of course, I admit that, considering the extent of the district covering so many towns widely apart from each other, any plan

put forth for the efficient prosecution of this Ordinance must always be attended with some difficulty; and I also admit that, having regard to the primitive state of the people, progress in sanitary defence must always be slow, tedious, and tentative; but I humbly submit that in view of the existence of influences inimical to health and largely dependent upon causes which are not only removable but whose very presence constitutes a breach of the sanitary law, the introduction of this Ordinance should no longer be delayed.

Kwitta.

Kwitta—the only exception to the rule—merits special notice as the first outspoken evidence of the degree of real and sensible sanitary work that has been steadily pursued in this district.

The town is fairly clean; the streets are well scavenged and lighted at night.

The Water Supply

Is fairly good for Kwitta, considering its topographical position. Good fresh water is a rarity, but there are few wells which do not yield sufficient quantity of fairly good water.

The Latrines,

Which are six in number, are in tolerably good working order. There are, however, no scavengers specially employed to empty the latrine pans; the prisoners do this, as well as the public scavenging. This portion of the prisoners' work should, on economical grounds, be the most fitting if we can be sure that there will always be sufficient number of prisoners in the gaol here to do the work. But, if I am correctly informed, there had been times during which the number of prisoners on hard labour was so small as to render it virtually impracticable to do the work efficiently. Under the circumstances the public would be placed in a most awkward position with regard to these latrines if there should happen to be no prisoners at all in the gaol to do the work. I beg, therefore, to suggest that a number of scavengers be specially employed to do the work of scavenging in order to be quite independent of the prisoners.

The Cemetery

Is in a bad condition and fenceless. It should not be so near the town, considering that nearly all the water used here is collected from surface wells. I beg to suggest that it be transposed from the present site to about 1,000 yards from the east end of the town and properly fenced in.

The Dispensary

Has been removed from the Fort to the town. The new premises appropriated for the purpose do not meet all the require-

ments of dispensary accommodations. Parts of the same building are rented by some men and their families. This and other circumstances that are daily occurring in the yard of the dispensary very much disturb the peace and quietness necessary for the proper work of the surgeon in charge. To my mind the only way to improve this state of matters would be either to take over the whole premises for dispensary purposes, or some other building more suitable for dispensary requirements should be appropriated. But whatever decision is come to on this subject I sincerely trust that the appropriation of these premises would not be considered a final settlement of the more pressing question of building a hospital at this station. This improvement, I may observe, has been advocated with great ability and earnestness by some of my predecessors in office. I would therefore say no more to vitiate the effects of their observations than this, that considering that there are at this station three European officers, a large detachment of the Constabulary, Houssas, and Fanti police, and a large staff of native officials, and the fact that we could gather no information of a reassuring character from the medical records in this department regarding the serious cases that came under the treatment of the surgeon, tetanus being invariably the intercurrent complication in many of the fatal cases, I respectfully submit that it is essential that the question of providing this station with hospital accommodation should no longer be postponed indefinitely.

The Epidemic of Small-Pox.

The noteworthy feature of the year is the outbreak of the epidemic of small-pox in the district, which has been raging fiercely in nearly all the towns and villages. It is at present raging very badly in the towns of Ahwey and Jellah Coffee, where the average death-rate is, as I am informed, estimated at 4 per diem, and, I regret to say, it shows no sign of abatement in spite of the active steps that have been taken. The cause of the spread of the disease in these towns I attribute particularly to a system of inoculation practised among the natives with the unattenuated small-pox virus. This practice undoubtedly helps very much in disseminating the disease. It is not possible, however, to give a correct estimate of the number of cases there are in the district on account of the tendency on the part of the natives to refrain from giving trustworthy information, and in some instances actually hiding the cases from me.

Active steps have been taken with regard to the isolation and removal of cases from the towns. I have attended and prescribed medicines, disinfectants, and other necessaries where it is possible for the comfort of the sick. I have recommended the building of temporary sheds for the reception of the sick. 1,088 children have been vaccinated. I have given stringent instructions to the Chiefs and people to exercise their influence and vigilance to the detection and removal of fresh cases from the towns, and to see that

the towns are kept clean and wholesome, and wherever the opportunity offered I have endeavoured to impress upon them certain matters of sanitary importance for the improvement and general welfare of the people; and, further, I took the opportunity of pointing out and carefully explaining to them the dangerous aspects of the practice of inoculation of the unattenuated virus as a sure medium for the spread of this dangerous disease. In view of the above observations you will agree with me that the present state of the district with respect to this epidemic requires a constant and efficient supervision which the health officer unaided and from pressure of other important official duties could not adequately perform. I beg, therefore, to suggest for your consideration and recommendation, if you think fit, the temporary appointment of an Inspector of Nuisances to assist me in carrying out efficiently my sanitary measures in the towns most affected by the epidemic.

Concluding Remarks.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I advocate the following sanitary reforms:—

(1.) The application and enforcement of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance;
(2.) The employment of scavengers;
(3.) The transposition of the cemetery;
(4.) The building of a hospital; and
(5.) The employment of an Inspector of Nuisances.

It is my firm belief that if these necessary improvements could be successfully introduced and prosecuted they would open up a new era in the sanitary history of this district, and materially enhance the boon already conferred for the promotion of the public health and the abatement of human suffering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. W. QUARTEY-PAPAFIO,
Health Officer and Acting Assistant
The Chief Medical Officer. Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

THE GOVERNOR,

I SUBMIT copies of the Chief Medical Officer's annual report and of the reports from the district medical officers which he submits.

Accra.

2. It is very satisfactory to learn with regard to Accra that the sanitary condition of the town shows a marked improvement. Every endeavour has, I may state, been made to urge forward the

GOLD COAST.

views of the Medical Department by the erection of additional latrines, the issue of handbills in the Accra language warning people against committing nuisances, and by getting the King and Chiefs to interest themselves in the cleanliness of their town.

3. Your Excellency, I know, holds the opinion expressed by Dr. Easmon that the town requires more ventilation by the gradual construction of wider streets. A map of the town as it is at present is almost completed. Lines should be drawn upon it showing how the streets should ultimately stand (the existing formation being taken as far as possible so as to prevent any scheme becoming valueless through being made unworkable); then as opportunity offers the ideal should be gradually worked up to. I will see to this as soon as I can get the map finished. Streets must also be marked out upon the confines of the town to accord with the proposed streets in the town and the people compelled to observe the lines laid down. This is imperative, as the town is undoubtedly increasing in size.

4. Although constructed this year it may not be out of place to refer to the new street which your Excellency has caused to be formed from the sea to meet the broad street running up to Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy's establishment. This is an improvement of great value, and it is work of this character which will gradually make Accra a town in reality, and lead to the improvement of the sanitary and social condition of the people.

5. The number of latrines is still said to be insufficient, but eight men are employed exclusively in digging pits, having been specially engaged at the end of the last year for that purpose and placed under the orders of the health officer. They should be able to cope with the requirements in this respect. Screens can be provided at a cost of about 10*l.* each, I will look further into this. There is a large number of scavengers, and if properly organized and made to work they should meet all requirements for some time, especially if by the enforcement of the provisions of the Town's Police and Public Health Ordinance the people are made to do their duty.

6. Under the head of "the disposal of the dead" Dr. Easmon refers to the necessity of giving the Mahomedans a cemetery, but he omits to mention that steps were being taken by the Government for that purpose. The ground has been acquired and the Mahomedans have now had their requirements met in this respect. The cemetery was marked out, handed over, and brought into use last month.

7. The filling in of the two ponds referred to, which elsewhere I have fully reported on, is undoubtedly necessary. This matter, as your Excellency is aware, gave rise to a riot in February, but one pond is now more than half filled up, and I trust all trace of it as a pond will have vanished in a few weeks' time. Your Excellency's decision in the matter will place in the town two fine open spaces or squares of considerable extent, which cannot fail to improve the sanitary condition as well as the appearance of the place.

8. The establishment of proper markets is most desirable, and when what is known as the Salaga pond is filled up, there is at once a grand site for a central market, and I know it is your Excellency's intention to turn it to that account when funds are available.

9. A slaughter-house is another necessity about which your Excellency has often spoken. It will cost about 120*l.* The difficulty is to find funds for these necessities, but as soon as a chance of proceeding with the matter shows itself I shall not hesitate to call attention to it.

10. The question of the nature of the disease of blackwater fever is being dealt with in separate papers and need not be referred to further in connexion with these reports.

11. There is no doubt that with the transfer of the headquarters of the constabulary to Accra the hospital accommodation has been at times insufficient. The constabulary should have their own hospital, or at any rate their own wards, and a medical officer wholly attached to them. The Hausas are valuable men; the Colony pays largely for them, and they should be well looked after. But here, again, money, which is not readily forthcoming, is wanted.

12. I do not agree with Dr. McCarthy's support of Dr. Prout's statement as to the urgency of medical officer's quarters at Christiansborg. They are desirable, but not, I submit, urgent.

13. The supply of pure water for the people of Accra and Christiansborg is most important. This has already engaged your Excellency's serious attention. The Victoria Reservoir for the town of Accra has only last week been deepened by voluntary labour on the part of the Accra population, both native and Mahomedan, and should now afford an ample supply for the wants of that town. It is, I know, your Excellency's intention to have the construction of a reservoir in the vicinity of Christiansborg commenced at an early date, and the wants of the people there will be met when this reservoir is completed.

Cape Coast.

14. With regard to Cape Coast many requirements are mentioned, but some of these have never been separately advocated, and a general report, as I have more than once had occasion to point out, is not the proper place to advocate for the first time questions of improvement which involve not only expenditure but careful consideration. However, nearly all the matters referred to have been considered, many have been carried out, and others of those necessary only await the necessary funds. The report on the fourth quarter of the year shows a more favourable state of affairs.

15. The native cemetery is being enclosed by the construction of a rampart in accordance with a suggestion which I made with a view to save the expense of constructing a wall. Prison labour is being employed.

GOLD COAST.

16. The question of increasing the number of scavengers both at Cape Coast and elsewhere is, as your Excellency is aware, under consideration.

Elmina.

17. With regard to the cleanliness of Elmina I think Dr. McCarthy passes too high an encomium on the Inspector of Nuisances as there have been many complaints which I am quite certain a smart officer would have avoided. As to the supply of Ordinances to the officers of the Medical Department, every application has been promptly complied with, and it is the duty of the Chief Medical Officer to apply for what in his opinion his subordinate officers ought to have.

Ada.

18. With regard to Ada Dr. Cole omits to mention that Mr. Holmes, the District Commissioner, has had two latrines constructed, of a temporary character it is true, but still of much use in assisting to improve the sanitary condition of the town. The sinking of wells has also been authorised and is in progress. The District Commissioner has also taken up the question of a cemetery, and is urging the native Chiefs to provide this necessity.

19. I think it may fairly be said that while there is a mass of sanitary work yet to be accomplished a steady advance has been made in the year 1888, and if that advance is maintained annually, as it can and shall be, there is no reason why a near approach to the ideal of the Medical Department should not eventually be reached.

(Initialled) F. M. H.

24th April 1889.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

Circular.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Accra, July 20, 1889.

SIR,

THE want of a proper cemetery at your station has been pointed out by the Medical Officer in his sanitary recommendations. I have to request that you will be good enough to select a suitable site to the leeward of the town in conjunction with the Medical Officer, possessing as far as possible the advantages of accessibility, dryness of soil and seclusion, and to take the necessary steps for acquiring the land under the Public Lands Ordinance No. 8 of 1876, if you are unable to persuade the Chiefs and people to give it up without resorting to compulsory measures. If the advantages to be derived from setting aside a proper place for the burial of the dead and the wishes of Her Majesty's Government on the subject are properly explained to the Chiefs, and they are given sufficient

time to think over the matter, I have some hope that you will have no difficulty in accomplishing the object in view. When the land has been acquired the question of the application of the provisions of the Cemeteries Ordinance No. 7, 1888, will arise, and it will be desirable that you should endeavour to persuade the people to enclose the cemetery or to effect this yourself as far as you are able by the prison labour at your disposal. The work will no doubt entail some trouble on your part and perhaps the employment of a little skilled labour, but the latter should be estimated for if necessary, and approval for the expenditure obtained.

I have &c.

(Signed) PERCIVAL HUGHES,
1st Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The District Commissioner,
—— District.

Enclosure 4 in No. 2.

Circular.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Accra, July 19, 1889.

SIR,

IN some of the villages in the interior the natives have of their own motion provided rough kinds of latrines, which serve the purpose of concentrating human excreta in one spot where they can be deodorised by the application of dry earth daily.

2. I should wish you to consider if, in conjunction with the health officer, you cannot induce the Chiefs and people to adopt this plan for the present in suitable localities where in your district it has not been possible to erect Government latrines as yet, and to secure the application of the necessary earth, or removal and burying of the soil by prison labour each morning with a view to avoid the creation of nuisances. Were such spots set aside it may be found possible to enforce the provisions of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance more stringently and to improve the general health of the locality. The provision of cesspits in specified localities for the reception of private sewage might also be considered and dealt with by you at the same time if you find yourself in a position to effect further improvements in this direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PERCIVAL HUGHES,
1st Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The District Commissioner,
—— District.

Gold Coast.

Enclosure 5 in No. 2.

The First Assistant Colonial Secretary to the District Commissioner, Cape Coast.

Colonial Secretariat, Victoriaborg, Accra,
July 19, 1889.

Sir,

I have to draw your attention to the recommendations which have been made in the sanitary reports of last year for the patrolling of the sea beach with a view to the avoidance of nuisances and the excavation of cesspits in a suitable locality for the reception of private sewage by means of prison labour.

I shall be glad if you find yourself able to give effect to the latter recommendation at once while you have so large a number of prisoners at your disposal, and if you will also give your special attention to the former important subject. It may be that until the requisite number of latrines can be provided by the Government you will find it desirable to set aside a special portion of the beach to the leeward of the town to which the people can be allowed to resort, and which can be scavenged daily by a gang of prisoners. This course is about to be adopted in Accra.

It has further been mentioned as desirable that the wells from which the natives obtain their water supply should be preserved from pollution by organic matter, or by people washing around them I request that you will also give your attention to devising some inexpensive means for remedying this. It may be casks sunk in the springs without bottoms would protect them sufficiently, but you will be the best judge of whether anything and what can be done with the means at the disposal of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Percival Hughes,
1st Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The District Commissioner,
Cape Coast.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 110.

GOLD COAST.

ECONOMIC AGRICULTURE ON THE GOLD COAST, 1889.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897–40.]

INDEX.

	Page
Aborah, road to	37
Abra, „	37
Abrowie fruit	16
Adulteration of produce by middlemen	32
Affoah fruit	16
Agriculture, small extent of	9
Agricultural implements in use	11
„ „ improvements in	36
Akropong hills	8
Aloes as fibre plants	27
Ammissah river	8
Ankobra „	8
Asses, use of for transport	36
Attalea excelsa	24
Ayimnaim, road to	37
Ayinsu river	8
Bananas	5
Banana fibre	27
Barwood	25
Broompon, money lender	11
Botanical Gardens, establishment of	24, 36, 37
„ „ duties of superintendent of	27, 37
Boundary disputes	10
Camwood	25, 31
Capital, attraction of, to Colony	38
Cassada, method of cultivation of	11
„ use of, for food	13
Castor oil plant	22
Cattle, European, introduction of	36
Cedar wood	25
Ceylon, grants-in-aid for roads in	36
Cocoa, advantages of cultivation	29
Coast towns, progress made in	32
Cocoanuts, small commercial use made of	20
„ cultivation of, at Lagos	22
„ mills for crushing	20
„ proposed Government plantation of	22
„ statistics of production elsewhere	20
„ cake of	22
„ value of produce of	21

	Page
Coffee culture, establishment of	28
„ result of a shipment of	28
„ species of, which thrive	28
„ shipment of in parchment	29
Commission on agriculture	46
Coprah, small export of	20
Cotton, exports of, from Volta district	26
„ „ small	26
„ cultivated behind Kumasi	26
„ wild, the Brazilian variety of	21
Crops, rotation of	12, 13
Cubeb (chavica) clusii	31
Custard apples	15
"Customs," evils of	11
Dantah wood	25
Date, the	16
Drug-producing plants	28
Dyes in use by natives	31
Ebony wood	25
Edoom „	25
Ejumaku, road to	37
Esparto-grass as paper material	27
Exports of produce, table of	40
Fetish days	15
Fibres	25
„ pineapple	26
„ compilation of list of	27
„ machines for extracting	27
„ „ for baling	28
„ value of different qualities of	27
Fire, clearing of land by, evils of	12
Fogs	9
Food crops	13
Fruits	15
„ wild	16
„ introduction of West Indian	16
Fufûl	10
„ mode of manufacture	13
Ground nuts	13
„ decline in cultivation of	14
„ introduction of, by Portuguese	14
„ improved seed of, required	22
Guinea grain	31
Gum-copal	22
Gunnell's machines	19, 20, 34
Harmattan wind	9
Hoe, use of	11
Horses, extended use of	35
Hybiscus, use of, for food	14

o 63720. Wt. 19305.

	Page
India-rubber industry	23
„ species of plants producing	23
„ defects in preparation of	23
„ improvements in preparation of	23, 24
„ cultivation of Landolphia in plantations	24
„ statistics of progress in trade of	33
Indigo as a profitable product	31
Jute, wild	27
Kroboe oil district	8
Kanky made from maize	13
Kapok fibre	26
Ko-ko, use of, for food	14
Kernel-cracking machines	19, 20, 34
Kola nut	30
„ properties of	30
„ method of cultivation	30
„ export of, to Lagos and Brazil	30
Lagos palm oil superior to that of Gold Coast	18
„ botanic station	34
Land, boundaries of	10
„ conditions of tenure	10
„ system of mortgage	10
„ „ cultivation	11
„ fertility of	12
Landolphia	23, 24
Limes	15
Limited liability	37, 38
Maize, a principal food staple	13
„ want of fresh kinds of seed of	13
Mangoes	15
Manures, non-use of	12
Matchet, use of	11
Meteorological conditions	9
Middleman in trade	32
Money-lender, tyranny of	10
Mules as transport agents	33
Natives, allegations against, of indolence	31
„ few wants of	10
„ improvidence of	12
„ readiness of, to adopt improvements	32
Niger botanic station	34
Oil palms, adulteration of oil from	17
„ chance growth of	12
„ improved manufacture of produce of	17, 18
„ fluctuations in price of oil of	18
„ kernels of, unutilized	44
„ mills for crushing nuts of	20

	Page
Oil palms, use of nuts of for fuel	24
„ necessity for improved transport of kernels of	19
„ non-export of kernels of	20
„ price of oil from	18
„ present method of manufacturing oil of	16
„ reservation of cutting rights by lessor of	10
„ uses to which oil is put	19
„ waste of produce in manufacture	17, 18
Okros, use of, for food	14
Oranges	15
Oxen, draught, introduction of	36
Papaw, the	15
Pará rubber	23, 24
Peppers	12
„ consumption of	14
Physic-nut	22
Pineapples	15
„ fruit of	26
„ „ export of, from Bahamas	26
Pito native ale	13
Plantain fibre	27
Plantains, a principal staple of food	10
„ , improvement in cultivating	13
Ploughs, introduction of, use of	36
Population, estimated	9
Prah river	8
Prahsu, road to	37
Princes river	8
Railways, eventual introduction of	36
Rainy season	9
Rice, as a food factor	14
„ introduction of seed of	15
„ grown in Appolonia, Axim, Quittah	14
Rivers of country	8
Roads, construction of, on trade routes	34, 37
„ grants-in-aid of	36
„ necessity for	32, 37
Sanseverias as fibre plants	7
Seccoom river	8
Silk cotton, use for	26
Solanum, use of, for food	14
Sour sop	15
Spices	31
Straits Settlements, road grants	36
Strophanthus	28
Sugar cane	30
Swanzy, Messrs., cotton export by	26
Sweet potato	14
Sweet sop	15
Sweet river	8

	Page
Tabernæmontani Crassus	23
Tamarind, the	16
Tanoe river	8
Tiger nuts	15
Timber, caution against deforestation of	25
„ cost of transport of	24
„ destruction of, in clearing land	12
„ different kinds of produced	25
„ supply, extent of	24
„ trade in, absence of	31
„ water transport for	25
Tobacco, cultivation of already undertaken	30
„ difficulty in curing	29
„ growth of, in interior	29
Tornado season	9
Trade routes, present principal	34
Transport animals, introduction of	33
„ statistics of cost of	35
Tsetse fly	36
Velvet berry	16
Veterinary surgeon	36
Village agriculture	10
Volta river	8
Urostigma Vogelii	23
Urucari nut	24
Yams, method of cultivation	11
„ „	13

No. 110.

GOLD COAST.

ECONOMIC AGRICULTURE ON THE GOLD COAST.

PREFACE.

Recommendations were contained in the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1842, and in the evidence before the Committee of 1865, for the establishment of a model farm or botanical garden in the Colony with a view to the promotion of agriculture. Accordingly about the year 1882 Sir Brandford Griffith, then Lieutenant-Governor of Lagos, introduced economic plants from the West Indies into Lagos and gave them the benefit of his own superintendence. After his appointment to the government of the Gold Coast Colony in 1886, Sir Brandford Griffith also brought the subject forward in Despatches, but pressure of business, internal disturbances, and other causes prevented practical effect being given to his ideas in this respect until 1889, when, whilst on leave in England, he secured the services of a trained botanical superintendent, with the co-operation of the authorities at the Colonial Office and Kew Gardens, and proceeded, as one of his first official acts upon his return to the Colony at the end of February 1890 to personally inaugurate the new botanical station at Aburi on the Akwapim Hills. Colonel White, when administering the government of the Colony during the Governor's absence in 1887, being in his turn impressed with the importance of taking steps for the development of local economic resources, brought the subject before the Legislative Council at the meeting of the 16th and 17th May 1887, with the result that a commission was issued by him on the 8th September 1887 appointing certain gentlemen to examine into and report upon the subject preparatory to the Governor's return. The present report is the outcome of the labours of that commission. Its secretary has been Mr. Hutchinson, a gentleman of local connexion and practical experience of the question, having had the enterprize to himself establish and work an agricultural farm in the neighbourhood of Cape Coast,

GOLD COAST.

probably the most comprehensive undertaking of the kind up to that date ever attempted on the Gold Coast. The contents of the report are briefly summarised in the fourth paragraph of the Governor's Despatch* enclosing it. Tables are attached to the report showing the exports of agricultural produce from the Gold Coast during the past seven years, and furnishing statistical information relative to the exports of the staple article of trade, the produce of the oil-palm for the five years 1884-1888, together with an estimate of the value and quantity of palm kernels of which no commercial use was made during that period.

REPORT.

The Gold Coast Colony is calculated to include an area of 29,401 square miles, lying along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea from 2° 40′ W. to 1° 10′ E., extending inland to an average distance of 50 miles, and throughout the greater part of its extent is covered with forest. In the Appolonia, Winneba, Accra, and Eastern Districts large open plains are found, but, as a rule, the country consists of rolling hills of an average height of 60 to 200 feet covered with heavy timber. Along the coast, to a distance of about five miles from the sea, the timber has been cleared away, and replaced by scrub, consisting of thickly growing evergreen shrubs rising to a height of 8 to 20 feet. Both forest and scrub are impenetrable to man, the former by reason of the thick undergrowth, and the latter by reason of its own close-growing habit. Behind Accra the Akropong Range rises to a height of 1,600 to 2,000 feet above the sea level. The principal river of the country is the Volta, navigable for a considerable distance, and forming the outlet of the rich oil district of Kroboe. Next in importance is the Prah (or Bosumprah), falling into the sea near Commendah, and forming in the upper part of its course the boundary between the Colony and the independent native empire of Ashanti. Besides these there are the Tanoe (the boundary between the Colony and the French Settlements), the Ancobra in the mining district of Axim, the Ammissah, near Salt Pond, the Ayinsu, near Winneba, and the Seccoom, near Accra. The Sweet River, which falls into the sea between Cape Coast and Elmina, and the Princes River (at Princes) are smaller than the foregoing, but each has numerous tributaries and drains an extensive tract of country. The fall in all these rivers is considerable, the current swift, and the course impeded by rocks and rapids. All are subject to great variations of volume according to the season, dwindling during the dry months, a few weeks after the rains have begun at their sources they rise with great rapidity, and, increasing in breadth and depth, flood the adjacent country when flat, or fill to the brim their steep and precipitous banks. All have

Physical features of Colony.

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* See page 45.

beds broad in proportion to their depth, and, running through soft soils, carry down enormous quantities of silt forming extensive and frequently shifting sandbanks in the larger rivers, and bars at the mouths of all. Each of these rivers has many tributaries which run for a portion of the year, each draining its own small area, and preserved from extinction probably by the heavy forests which protect them from evaporation.

Meteorological conditions.

2. From the meagre meteorological returns available it appears that the thermometer ranges from 70° to 90° (Fahr.) throughout the year, with an average temperature of 82° F. The rainfall is about 67″ per annum, nearly half of which falls during the rainy season. The air is always heavily charged with moisture, the difference between the wet and dry bulbs of the hygrometer averaging 6°, giving a comparative humidity of about 70°. These remarks apply to the coast line, where alone meteorological observations have been made; but as the land rises rapidly towards the interior, there is probably a considerable difference between the thermometric and hygrometric readings on the northern boundary and on the coast line.

3. The rains begin in the latter part of April or the beginning of May, continuing to the end of June or the early part of July. During this period there is a succession of heavy showers of rain, a fall of 2″ or 3″ in 24 hours being not uncommon. These are followed by a period of dry weather broken by tornadoes. The latter rains begin about the middle of October continuing to the end of November, falling in frequent showers of very small rain. These are followed by another stretch of dry weather till March, during which and the following month tornadoes are frequent. From October to March heavy night and morning fogs prevail in the interior. About Christmas the harmattan, a cold, dry northerly, wind blows in the mornings bringing with it a quantity of fine sand which it deposits on everything. The tornadoes consist of a strong wind from the E. or S.E., which is followed by a heavy downpour of rain, but they never attain the fearful power of the hurricanes of the West Indies and rarely damage buildings. Beyond blowing down a few branches of the forest trees, and laying crops, they do little injury. These remarks again apply only to the coast, the rains beginning earlier and being heavier and more regular in the forest country.

Agriculture extent of

4. In this tropical country, where Nature repays every effort of cultivation by a hundredfold return, and the wants of man are confined almost exclusively to his daily necessary food, there is no incentive to exertion, and thus, although agriculture is the main occupation of the people, we have no hesitation in stating that probably no more than three per cent., certainly not more than five per cent., of the soil is brought under cultivation in any one year.

Population

The population is estimated at 1,406,450 giving an average of 41·4 to the square mile. The greater number of these are scattered through the interior of the country in small villages situated in clearings in the forest. There are a few towns, the

Gold Coast.

seats of the principal Chiefs, which may contain 1,000 to 2,000 inhabitants each, but as a rule the number is under 100. Each village is surrounded by a thick growth of plantains, which affords the principal food of the people, and in the neighbourhood are the small clearings where they grow their corn (maize), yams, and other vegetables. As a rule, each family grows its own food in a separate patch, these patches seldom exceeding an acre in extent, but when a whole village combines, an area of 10 to 12 acres is cleared and planted with maize, which appears to be the only crop grown in co-operation, and even in such cases the portion of each family is carefully marked off.

Rural economy.

5. Most of the land is held by families in common, the quantity in private hands being comparatively small. Each member of a family has the right to select a portion of the common land for cultivation, but cannot acquire exclusive possession thereof, and alienation can only be effected by the unanimous consent of the family. If, however, any member plants trees, he has an exclusive right to the fruit thereof, but cannot transmit that right to his descendants. The powers of the head of the family vary with his personal influence and character, but to him belongs the right of allowing strangers to cultivate, receiving the fees therefor (usually consisting of a flask of rum, a head of tobacco, and a shilling in money), and of permitting the cutting of palm trees for wine. When granting permission to cultivate, the privilege of cutting oil-palms is always reserved, but the temporary tenant does not appear to be restrained from gathering for his own use such nuts as may ripen during his occupation.

Tenure of land.

Land boundaries.

The boundaries between estates are marked by natural objects, such as rocks, trees, rivers, &c., but, as the memory of "the oldest inhabitant" is the only test, boundary disputes are frequent.

5A. The leasing of land for a term of years is unknown. A man having no land of his own goes to a neighbouring landowner, and on paying the small fee mentioned above obtains leave to cultivate, but when he takes off his crop he vacates the land.

System of land mortgage.

Estates, however, are frequently pawned or mortgaged for money lent, the pawnee or mortgagee acquiring thereby the right to use the land as his own (except that he may not cut the oil-palms) until the loan is repaid, the use of the land standing in lieu of interest. In this manner estates are frequently transferred and pass from heir to heir of the mortgagee, the mortgagor, or his representatives, retaining the right to redeem the property by repayment of the loan at any time. Under similar conditions similar phenomena will always recur, and in the Gold Coast Colony, as in all poor agricultural communities, the money-lender is the tyrant of his neighbourhood. As far as his personal wants are concerned, the native of the interior of the Colony can live without money. He owns a few plantain-trees in the village patch which supply him with the material of his staple food, *fufûl*, his corn and vegetable patch not only give him enough for his own use, but a surplus to be bartered for fish or other necessaries or sold for money to buy cloth, tobacco, &c., the marketing being done by his wives, and he lives free from care. But if a death occurs in his

family, if he be so unfortunate as to lose a wife, a child, his father, or, most important of all, an uncle, all is changed. "Custom" must be made regardless of expense. Guns must be fired, rum must be provided, and every comer must be entertained for at least a week after the death. The custom must be repeated after an interval of six weeks, and a third time after the lapse of a year. Sacrifices of goats and sheep must be made at the funeral, and at other times as directed by the fetishman, and perhaps fetish made to lay the ghost of the deceased. For this outlay the labour of himself and wives and family no longer suffices; he goes to the "Broompon," the rich man of the neighbourhood, and obtains a loan. Henceforth until the money is repaid he is a slave. Interest at 50, 75, or 100 per cent. is added to the principal, and until the loan is repaid the debtor must work for his creditor two days in each week, nothing being allowed for his labour. This may, and frequently does, go on for years, until the debtor is fortunate enough to find means to pay both principal and interest. A man may be held for the debts of his deceased relatives as well as his own. The man who makes the "custom" is responsible for the debts of the deceased, and in the courts of the Chiefs judgment will be given against him and his person held until payment or an arrangement is effected. "Customs" are probably responsible for seven-eighths of the debts in the country, and weigh like an incubus on its prosperity by causing a vast amount of useless expenditure and implanting in the people a love of drink and idleness. The observance is enforced by superstition, and submitted to from fear; fear of the anger of the dead, fear of the wrath of the fetish and fear of public opinion, which applauds the man who makes a "big custom," and stigmatizes as "stingy" the man who spares on such an occasion with all the power which a small community can bring to bear on every member of it. In the coast towns the missionaries and the temperance societies have done much to diminish the exigency of "customs," and it is to be hoped that by improved communications they may soon be able to extend their influence to the interior. It is usually to pay for a "custom" that estates are pawned.

Native "customs."

6. A patch of land having been selected, if it is to be planted with yams, the bush clearing takes place about Christmas; if for other crops, about the middle to the end of March. Clearing is effected by cutting down the bush, which is left on the ground till dry, which takes about a week. It is then set fire to and, with a hoe, the weeds are cleared away and the ashes dug in. The ground is then ready for planting, which is done in the clear spaces between the stumps of the bush, which are never grubbed up. About a month later the first weeding is carried out, and with three months' crops another cleaning is given at an interval of another month. With crops which remain longer in the ground, as yams and cassada, further cleanings are given at irregular intervals. The only implements used are the matchet (of European manufacture) and the hoe (usually made in the country from imported bar-iron). The matchet is used for cutting the bush. The clearing of the small growth, the planting, and the

Method of land cultivation.

Gold Coast.

subsequent cleanings of the ground are all carried out with the hoe, which has a handle of 15 to 18 inches long and a blade about 3 inches square. Fire is the principal agent in clearing away the wild growth, and as no precautions are adopted to confine it to the area selected much valuable timber is thus destroyed annually. With such means the surface of the soil only is utilised, and as the natives have no idea of the use of manure, a new piece of ground is taken each year, except in the case of certain species of *Hybiscus* and *Solanum* used in soups, which are sometimes planted in succession to a crop of corn. Peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) and the oil-palm (*Elais Guineensis*) are never planted; all the trees of these two kinds growing fortuitously from seeds scattered by the birds or animals which feed on the fruits. No work is done on the fetish days, usually Tuesday and Thursday in each week.

Rotation of crops.

7. As may be gathered from the foregoing description, the cultivation is of the rudest sort, hardly worthy of the name, a mere scratching of the surface; but so fertile is the soil, and so forcing the climate, that these easy toils are repaid by a return of one to two-hundredfold in the corn and other crops in proportion. A second crop might be taken from the ground in the following year, but experience, no doubt, has taught the native cultivator that soil thus taxed takes a long time to recover, and land being superabundant he has no motive to study economy in its use. After a crop of yams, ground is left untilled for five years; after other crops, for three years. Even within the shorter of these periods the bush will have so grown as to obliterate all signs of the ground having been cleared, and the ashes of the abundant growth again form an excellent manure, and is, in the absence of cattle, almost the only manure procurable. Along the coast, along a band of about five miles in breadth, only one crop per annum is sown, but beyond that limit two crops a year are the rule, the second planting taking place at the season of the latter rains, but on a different piece of land from the first.

Improvidence in food storage.

8. In the neighbourhood of the large coast towns a surplus of food is sometimes grown for sale to the townspeople, which is bartered at the bi-weekly markets (usually Tuesday and Friday) for fish, &c., but as a rule each grows only enough for his family's own use. Immediately after the gathering of the crop, abundance reigns, but, as nothing is carried over from one year to another, before the next crop is ripe everything becomes very scarce and prices rise to twice the amount at crop time. Thus, immediately after the crop is gathered corn costs about 6*s.* 9*d.* per 1,000 heads in the farming districts, while seven or eight months later the price will be 13*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.* for the same quantity. A failure of the rains in their season for a single year would probably cause a famine; the consequence of two years' drought would probably be the death by starvation of half the population.

9. For convenience of description the products of the country may be divided into three classes—(A) Food-crops; (B) Fruits (C) Commercial products.

(A.) —*Food Crops.*

Staples of food produced.

10. The crop most extensively cultivated is undoubtedly maize. It is planted at the beginning of the rains and is ready for pulling in three months. The grains are soft and white, and give a good flour, but do not keep well, and are extremely subject to the attack of weevils. There is a red variety, but this is not extensively cultivated. This cereal was introduced by the Portuguese from America, and from want of proper culture has greatly deteriorated, running to stalks which are long and thin, and are blown down by the least wind, so that by the time the ears are ready to be pulled half the crop is laid on the ground. From the same cause the ears are small. The return is from 50 to 100-fold on the seed planted. The introduction and distribution of fresh seed of a large white variety, suited to a tropical climate, would be an immense boon to the country.* From maize is made kanky, the bread of the country, various kinds of gruel, and pito, or native ale. Plantains are of equal importance in the native dietary with maize. They are principally consumed in the green state in the form of *fufûl*, which is made from boiled plantains by beating in a mortar with a heavy wooden pestle till the whole forms a homogeneous mass, and is eaten with soup. In the ripe state they are roasted or baked and eaten with ground nuts as a dessert. Five varieties are distinguished, differing principally in size. Every village in the "bush" has its plantain grove, generally surrounding the village, which supplies the staple food of the owners without trouble to themselves, as no care is bestowed on the plants beyond cutting down the weeds once or twice a year, the suckers being allowed to grow freely, so that it is nothing extraordinary to see a dozen heads to a single stool. When the bunch of fruit has attained its full size it is cut off, the stalk is cut down and left to rot on the ground; this being the only manure supplied; at the same time the old dried leaves are cut off the remaining heads of the stool. Great improvement might be effected in the quality, and the quantity of fruit greatly increased by care in cultivation. The plantain is believed to be indigenous to the country, and to have been carried hence to Madeira and the West Indies.

Maize.

Plantains.

Yams are another important article of food, being eaten boiled, baked, and (when new) roasted, and beaten up as *fufûl* in the same way as plantains. There are three principal varieties, the large and the small white and the purple. The large white sometimes attains a size of 2 or 3 feet in length by 6 inches in diameter. The finest yams are grown in the Fanti district. The purple variety is only grown in small quantities. More care is bestowed on this product than on most others, but immense improvement would be caused by deeper cultivation and the use of suitable manures. The plants are trained up poles, a yam patch looking not unlike a badly kept hop-garden. It is considered the most exhausting of all the crops, and land which has been planted with it is left, as already remarked, for five years to recover. Cassada

Yams.

Cassada.

* I have ordered some to be sent out; it must be on its way.—W.B.G.

Gold Coast.

(the sweet variety) is grown in large quantities, and attains a great size. This plant seems to require the presence of salt in the soil or in the air, as the best quality is grown in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea. It is eaten in the same way as the yam; boiled, roasted, and beaten up as *fufûl*, and forms the principal food of the Kruboys, who are so numerously employed in the country. The sweet potato is grown in considerable quantities, and in the Assin, Akim, and Aquapim districts a species of Arum, known as Ko-Ko, is grown for the sake of the root, which resembles the sweet potato in texture and the yam in flavour.

Ground-nuts.

Ground-nuts are grown to a considerable extent in some of the districts, and formerly a large quantity was exported from Fettah; but this trade has been killed by the development of the cultivation of this product in the Gambia and the East Indies, the nuts produced on the Gold Coast being small and poor in oil. The nuts grown are used as food, being made into soups or eaten with baked plantains, as before described. The ground-nut was introduced from the Brazils by the Portuguese.

Peppers.

Peppers enter largely into the composition of every native dish. As before remarked, they are never planted, but when a tree is found it is kept clear of weeds, and the fruit plucked when ripe. Only a small quantity is exported, but the trade is capable of great expansion.

Okros, &c.

Okros and other species of hybiscus and solanum are largely grown for use in soups. These are usually planted in succession to a crop of maize.

Rice.

Rice is grown in the Axim and Quittah districts. In the former district a red variety is grown in the marshy plains in the neighbourhood of Appolonia and Axim. It is large, soft grained, and sweet, resembling the Sierra Leone rice. In the Quittah district an upland sort is grown on the hills about Ho and forms the staple food of the inhabitants. These two districts are capable of supplying the requirements of the whole Colony, and other districts are adapted to the growth of this crop in which a large and profitable foreign trade might be carried on, yet the Colony imports largely, as will be seen by the following table:—

Imports of.

			£	s.	d.
1880, 774 cwts.	imported,	valued at -	373	5	11
1881, 2,977	,,	,, -	1,423	5	9
1882, 2,287	,,	,, -	1,193	15	3
1883, 742	,,	,, -	372	3	0
1884, 5,488	,,	,, -	2,801	1	6
1885, 9,450	,,	,, -	5,058	15	6
1886, 6,767	,,	,, -	3,192	11	9
1887, 4,863	,,	,, -	2,387	12	4
1888, 8,992	,,	,, -	4,050	11	11

Taking the remarkable diminution in 1883 as a dividing line, we find that this grain is assuming an important position among the foods of the country, and that whereas from 1880 to 1883 the

average annual importation was only 1,683 cwts., (840*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*), the average during the later five years has risen to 7,102 cwts. (3,498*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*), with every likelihood of an increasing consumption. The more nutritious quality of the home-grown rice, which is not deprived of its gluten by the excessive cleaning which that imported from Europe undergoes, is recognised by the people, and the prospect for the cultivators of this grain is encouraging if a cheap method of transport can be found. For the purposes of foreign trade it would be advisable to introduce and encourage the cultivation of some of the hard-grained white varieties of other tropical countries.

Cultivation of.

Improvement in seed of.

(B.)—*Fruits.*

11. Oranges are plentiful and cheap, but, as a rule, poor. A fine variety, thin-skinned and sweet, is grown at Chama. The "tangerine" was introduced some years ago by the Rev. T. B. Freeman at Beulah, near Cape Coast, but appears to have died out. As a rule the oranges are thick-skinned, and the trees, being unpruned and untended, run greatly to wood. With proper cultivation very fine fruit could be produced and a profitable trade carried on in them.

Principal fruits.

Limes of excellent quality, but small, are abundant. This, again, arises merely from want of cultivation. They are principally used (by the natives) in the bath; the want of sugar has probably prevented the use of the juice as a drink. The sweet lime is unknown. Of mangoes there are two kinds, distinguished by size, both very stringy and with the "turpentine" flavour very strongly marked. Improved culture is wanted and the introduction of better sorts. The papaw, introduced by the Portuguese from the West Indies, is spreading all over the country and is a favourite fruit. The sort grown is small and full of seeds.

Sour-sops are fair sized though carelessly grown; sweet-sops are scarce; custard apples small but sweet.

Tiger nuts are used as a fruit when new, and are also the source of the well-known "tiger-nut milk." These are grown with more care than most of the crops, but only in small quantities. Manure is occasionally used in their culture, the nuts being smeared with dung before planting. The milk is supposed to act as an aphrodisiac.

Of bananas there are three kinds—the common, the silver, and the copper, of which the second is the smallest, but the finest flavoured. Bananas are usually grown together with plantains, and being seldom cleaned, and the suckers allowed to grow unchecked around the mother stem, the bunches are small and the fruit poor.

Of pineapples there are three different varieties—the black, the red, and the green, the fruits being of these colours when young. No care is taken in their cultivation, the sprouts or suckers from a newly-plucked fruit being stuck in the ground and allowed to

Gold Coast.

grow; they are never cleared from weeds or the root-suckers removed, consequently the fruit is poor in flavour and small, seldom exceeding five or six pounds in weight.

Wild fruits.

Of wild fruits there are the miraculous berry, which leaves a persistent sweet taste in the mouth; the "velvet berry," the pericarp of which is mixed with water and used as a drink; the "tamarind," very rarely used; the "date," very small and poor; the "affoah," a black plum-like fruit, and the "abrowie," which is capable of improvement and might, under cultivation, become an agreeable fruit.

12. As may be gathered from the foregoing, the supply of fruit is small and poor, and the introduction of new and better sorts would be a boon to the Colony both from a culinary and from a sanitary point of view, as the doctors are constantly recommending a larger consumption of fruit, an instruction which the want of variety and the unsatisfactory quality of the supply available make their patients unable to follow. West Indian fruits take kindly to the soil and climate, and a supply might be obtained thence of their best varieties of orange, shaddock, mango, star and rose apples, fig-bananas, &c.

Introduction of improved kinds.

(C.)—*Commercial Products.*

The oil-palm.

13. (*a.*) Oil-producing plants. Of all the products of the Gold Coast the *Elais Guineensis* is undoubtedly the most important to the native. The fruit supplies him with a favourite food and two important articles of commerce; with the leaf-stalks he builds his house and barn and thatches them with its leaves, and from the stem he extracts a pleasant and (sometimes) intoxicating drink. The tree prefers a moist soil, flourishing in the warm, damp valleys, where it grows in extensive forests. It has never been made the object of systematic cultivation, but, as far as can be ascertained, it begins to bear in its fourth or fifth year, increasing till its fifteenth and continues to bear at least 60 years. It produces from four to seven bunches of nuts every year. As the "fatness" of the nuts (*i.e.*, the amount of oil contained in the fibre) differs greatly according to soil, the quantity of oil varies from three gallons per year in a moist soil to one gallon in dry. These nuts have a fibrous covering which contains the famous palm-oil. Three varieties of the tree are distinguished having orange, red, and black nuts respectively, the first giving the finest oil but small kernels, the others less oil but larger nuts. When the bunches of nuts are ripe they are cut and thrown into a hole in the ground till a sufficient quantity is collected to be made into oil. During this time the nuts appear to undergo a small amount of fermentation, and the produce is "hard" oil, the fresh nuts giving "soft" oil, which fetches a better price in the European markets. The quality of the "hard" oil is also deteriorated by the dirt which becomes mixed with the nuts while stored, to separate which no care is taken. When a sufficient quantity has

Conditions of growth.

Varieties of nuts.

been collected the nuts are boiled till the fibre is softened; they are then heaped up in stone troughs specially prepared for the purpose, and beaten with sticks till the fibre is loose. The heap of nuts is then covered with plantain leaves and left for 12 hours, during which time great heat is developed and a quantity of oil runs off. The nuts are then washed in hot water and the fibre separated and squeezed by hand. The oil is then boiled to separate it from the water taken up in the washing.

Process of manufacture.

This process is defective at every stage. To produce the finest quality and the largest quantity of oil the nuts should be treated when just ripe and fresh gathered from the tree. They should not be allowed to ferment, which darkens the colour of the oil and causes it to harden. The separation of the fibre by beating and hand squeezing is slow and gives very imperfect results, and should be replaced by machinery in the first stage and hydraulic presses in the second. At present quite 25 per cent. of the oil is lost, first by inperfect separation of the fibre, a large quantity of which is left adherent to the nuts, and second by want of power in the squeezing, which fails to extract the whole of the oil. Finally, the last boiling further darkens the oil, as palm oil changes colour according to temperature. A process which should extract the oil from the fibre without the addition of water and do away with the final boiling would greatly improve the quality. This could be effected by separating the fibre from the nuts by a dry process, and then submitting it to hydraulic pressure to extract the oil. Pure fresh palm-oil has an agreeable smell (it has been described as resembling that of plum-cake), and is of a bright orange colour; but the oil of commerce, owing to faults of manufacture, has a stink absolutely indescribable, and every shade of colour between golden yellow and black. In the Western Province the quality is further deteriorated by adulteration. At Salt Pond a peculiar fine red earth is used for mixing by the middlemen, which it is almost impossible to separate by the most prolonged boiling, which process is in itself detrimental to the quality. In the Chama district the oil is mixed with over-ripe plantains and sour kanki, which is beaten up with the hard oil till thoroughly incorporated. Accra may be considered the dividing line of the two sorts, the oil made in that district and to the eastward being soft, that made to the westward being hard. The soft oils are in general purer than the hard; these being less able to incorporate foreign substances, the adulteration is almost confined to the mixture of water. It has been suggested that legislation should be adopted to punish the adulteration, but there are so many difficulties in the way that the Government cannot be expected to pass an Ordinance for the purpose. It would be necessary to establish a standard of purity, which could only be done after numerous and careful scientific analyses; to appoint qualified analysers to test all parcels of oil submitted to them, and inspectors with powers to take samples of and to seize suspected and adulterated parcels of oil. The machinery would be so costly that the fees necessary to cover the expenses would be

Imperfections in.

Adulteration.

Proposed remedies.

GOLD COAST.

extremely heavy, and no doubt, on mature consideration, the merchants of the Gold Coast will prefer to rely on their own rough tests and the influence of prices to enforce purity of manufacture. But the immediate contact of the exporter and the producer by improved means of communication will probably be found most effective to this end. To show the effect of adulteration nothing more is necessary than to compare the position of Lagos oil (which is the purest known) with that of Gold Coast oil on the European market. When Lagos oil sells for 22*l.* 10*s.* per ton, Accra oil (which includes Addah and Quittah sorts) fetches 19*l.* 10*s.*, and Salt Pond (including Winnebah, Appam, and Chama sorts) 18*l.* only, or 20 per cent. less than Lagos sorts. No doubt some of the superiority of Lagos oil is inherent in the article, but having in view the amount of adulteration in the oil from the Gold Coast it is not unreasonable to expect that the production of a purer oil and the adoption of the Lagos "cold" process of manufacture (as distinguished from the Gold Coast "hot" process) would approximate prices. The average export of oil from the Gold Coast, taking the exports from 1882 to 1888 (*see* Schedule A.) as a basis, is 3,276,000 gallons, which, allowing two gallons per tree, would be the produce of 1,638,000 trees, probably not more than one half of the number of trees actually existing in the Colony. Allowing one fourth of this deficiency (a large estimate) for home consumption, we have nearly one and a quarter millions of gallons of the value of 51,700*l.* as lost to the Colony every year. A large quantity of the oil in the nuts subjected to manufacture is wasted owing to the defective methods employed, but a still larger quantity there is no attempt to use, the nuts being allowed to fall from the trees and rot on the ground.

Price compared with that of Lagos oil.

Wasted produce.

Fluctuations in price.

14. It is impossible to pass from this subject without referring to the fluctuations in the price of palm-oil which have occurred during the last few years (the effect of which is seen in the diminution of exports during 1886–1887, while the price was steadily falling, and in the increase in 1888, owing to a recovery of the market), and, considering the prospect in view of the competition of tallow, petroleum, and other oils, and the increased production which would be caused by the adoption of improved methods of cultivation, manufacture, and transport, there can be no hesitation in saying that, given a cheap method of transport, palm-oil can be profitably produced on the Gold Coast even though prices should fall considerably below their present level. It is the difficulty of transport that keeps the price on the Gold Coast at such a height as renders the present state of the markets in Europe unprofitable to the exporter, although the grower can produce it at a cost which would enable him to sell it with profit at 3*d.* to 4*d.* per gallon. Allowing 300 gallons to the ton, the cost to the exporter would be 3*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.* per ton, which, after paying for caskage, shipping, &c., and allowing 1*l.* per ton for transport from the plantation to the beach, would enable him to place it on the European market at 13*l.* per ton. In view of the increasing use of other fats, displacing palm-oil in many directions, the inhabitants of the Colony have to face the probability of the

Improvement of means of transport.

price of palm-oil touching 15*l.* to 14*l.* per ton, and have the right to call upon their Government to perform its obvious duty by putting the roads in such a condition as to enable them to transport their produce at a reasonable cost, and to prevent their staple produce being driven from the market to the ruin of their trade.

15. It is not here a question of building up a new trade, but how to preserve an established one. The intrinsic qualities of palm-oil have already placed it at the head of the vegetable fats. "Palm oil must take precedence of all the host of vegetable fats, "seeing that the imports of this one item into England almost "equal in amount those of tallow, cocoanut, and the rest together." (Report on Colonial Section: Colonial and Indian Exhibition, page 265.) No other oil is capable of being put to such a variety of uses. Its fine body, delicate aroma, and ready power of bleaching render it invaluable to the makers of the most delicate toilet soaps, and the superiority of French toilet soap is in some measure due to their extensive use of this oil. The soft sorts enter largely into the manufacture of the common varieties of soap, while the hard varieties, on account of the large quantity of palmitic acid which they contain, are chiefly used for candle-making. Its non-drying qualities render it valuable in other industries. "Besides its value in the soap and candle industries palm-oil finds a large applica-"tion in South Wales and elsewhere in the manufacture of tin "plate." (Report cited, page 266.) "For this latter purpose its "non-drying qualities render it valuable as a preservative of the "heated iron sheet from oxidation, until the moment of dipping "into the bath of melted tin, the sheets being rapidly transferred "to that from the hot oil-bath which consists almost entirely of "palm-oil. The *softest*, purest, and most neutral oil is preferred "for this purpose." (Spon's Encyclopædia of Industrial Arts, Manufactures and Commercial Products, Division IV. page 1407.) It is this application of the oil which gives the "Lagos" quality its superiority in the market, that being the most neutral (*i.e.*, non-rancid) and the cleanest. The Gold Coast planter should endeavour to extend the demand for his oil by preventing the mixture of impurities, the presence of which tends to partially decompose the oil and render it harder (Spon *op. et. loc. cit.*), and by increased consumption to compensate himself for the fall in price.

Comparative superiority of palm oil.

Uses to which applied.

Excellence of Lagos oil.

16. After the manufacture of the oil the nuts are still valuable, as they contain the well-known palm kernels. For every ton of palm-oil there should be 2½ tons of clean palm kernels, and yet we find that the exports of this article are much below those of the oil (*see* Schedule A.). The direct loss to the Colony is enormous, and arises from the same causes as diminish the export of oil. Machines have been invented by Gunnell and others for the purpose of rapidly breaking the nuts, but they can never come into general use until it is possible to move large weights in carts along roads adapted to the purpose, as will be evident when it is considered that under present conditions four men are required to carry, on their heads, sufficient nuts (2 cwts.) to produce 56 lbs. of kernels,

Value of palm kernels.

Gold Coast.

the value of which varies from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* Owing to this cause 100,000*l.* worth of this one article are annually wasted (*see* Schedule B.), the nuts being piled in heaps and allowed to rot. Schedule B. is an eloquent argument for the establishment of good cart roads. The palm-kernels are exported to Europe, where the oil is extracted, but this might be done on the Coast if it were possible to put oil mills on the plantations, or to convey nuts cheaply to central mills, and would probably be found more remunerative than the exportation of the kernels. The average yield of the kernels being 30 per cent. of their weight in oil, the utilisation of the whole estimated crop would produce 8,700 tons of oil per annum, which at the price of cocoanut oil (which it closely resembles) would be worth to the Colony over 175,000*l.* To this must be added the value of the cake after the expression of the oil. The brown or black oil made by the process now in use in the country is not worth exporting, as it can be only slightly bleached and is therefore useless for soap-making. The native process of making the white oil is too slow to pay, and could not be worked on a large scale, but with the establishment of oil mills on the European system a good and profitable trade should arise, as the palm kernel oil expressed in England has to a large extent supplanted cocoa-nut-oil in the cheaper kinds of soap, in consequence of its not readily turning rancid, and thus imparting to the soap the strong smell which is always caused by the use of cocoanut oil; while its almost equal power of absorbing water renders it as remunerative to the soap-boiler.

Cocoanuts, free production of.

17. The cocoanut is largely grown, every town and village along the coast having its grove of palms at the edge of the beach, and most of the villages in the vicinity of the sea having a ring of these trees around them. The trunks are occasionally used as beams, but very little commercial use is made of the fruit, the exports of coprah reaching barely 1,000*l.* per annum. The nuts are also occasionally exported, but no use is made of the fibre. A clear white oil is extracted from the kernels by grinding and boiling, but the quantity made is extremely small, and is consumed locally for toilet purposes. The trees are planted promiscuously and left to grow untended, consequently the yield is small and the supply would probably be too uncertain to justify the establishment of mills specially for the expression of cocoanut oil, though mills set up for the purpose of expressing palm-kernel oil might earn a subsidiary profit by operating on cocoanuts when palm-kernels were out of season. It is astonishing that no effort to utilise this source of wealth has ever been made by the laying out of plantations and the establishment of a trade in the produce of the trees. As is well known, the cultivation of the cocoanut forms a large and important branch of agriculture in the East Indies and Ceylon, while the industry has in comparatively recent years been successfully introduced into the Islands of the Indian and Pacific Archipelagoes. In the Madras Presidency alone there are nearly a quarter of a million acres under cocoanuts, while the value of the plantations of this tree in Ceylon was estimated a

Non utilisation of.

Cultivation in other places.

15,000,000*l.* in 1876, and in 1871 (since which date, however, the area under cocoanuts has been considerably reduced) the exports of the oil and fibre amounted to 300,000*l.*; the total production of the island has been recently estimated at 700 to 800 millions of nuts annually, worth 2,000,000*l.* The coast of Brazil for a length of 280 miles is covered with groves of this tree, and the exports from Pará alone to the United States amount to 130,000*l.* annually. The West Indian Islands are developing their cocoanut plantations with the result that from Trinidad the exports rose from a quarter of a million nuts in 1864 to 4½ millions (worth 18,000*l.*) in 1876. The coast of Guinea is as well adapted for the production of this valuable palm as any of the places which have been described, and it depends upon the inhabitants of the Colony whether they will gather the wealth that is within their reach from this source. The extent of the European demand for the products of this palm may be realised from the fact that the annual imports into the United Kingdom alone amount to 250,000*l.* for cocoanut oil and 170,000*l.* for coir fibre, yarn, and cordage; while, as we have seen, the United States import from a single port in Brazil 130,000*l.* worth of nuts per annum. Even if there is no attempt at making the oil on the spot, there is a profit to be made (with a smaller expenditure of capital) by exporting the copra and the fibre, the former being worth 11*l.* to 12*l.* 19*s.* per ton, and the latter from 8*l.* for short qualities to 30*l.* per ton for "fine, long, straight." This industry should recommend itself to the natives of the country, as the capital required is small, and the labour of cultivating the trees and collecting the nuts need not interfere with the cultivation of his food crops. It would be more profitable for small cultivators to sell their nuts to the large growers or to central mills than to attempt the manufacture of oil and fibre for themselves. Simmonds's "Tropical Agriculture" (page 227) gives the average production of a tree in full health and properly tended as 120 nuts per annum, which at 98½ trees per acre (planting 21 ft. × 21 ft.) would give a return of 11,500 nuts per acre, the value of which at 36*s.* per thousand would be 20*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, or three times as much as the value of an acre of maize. The only drawback to this culture is the length of time that elapses before any return can be obtained, the trees not coming into bearing till the tenth year, but this loss may be avoided by planting yams or other tuberous roots in the intervals between the trees. To capitalists who can afford to wait the necessary time, and to purchase the machinery required for the extraction of the oil and fibre, this industry should offer exceptional attraction, as the initial outlay is small and the upkeep cheap, while the plant being hardy and permanent but little anxiety need be felt as to the returns when they have begun to bear. Planted 21 ft. × 21 ft. the nuts from an acre of trees will give on an average 23 cwt. of oil, worth 27*l.* (40 nuts to an imperial gallon of oil), besides 52 cwt. of long and 11½ cwt. of brush fibre (5 cwt. of long and 1 cwt. of brush fibre per 1,000 nuts; Simmonds, *Op. cit.*, pp. 227 and 237), of the value of 70*l.*, making a total return of 97*l.* per acre per annum. "Trees grown in the most fertile soils will live for a century,

Gold Coast

Imports into United Kingdom.

Value of produce.

GOLD COAST.

" others less favoured from 60 to 80 years only; the former will " yield their fruit commencing at the tenth year and with rare " intervals continue until their sixtieth year, and then gradually " decrease in fruitfulness till they decay " (Simmonds, *Op. cit.*, p. 229, quoted from " Agricultural Gazette of India," Vol. III.), so that a coacoanut walk once established will outlast more than one generation. No fear need be felt of overstocking the market, as the " civilised world of the temperate zone can absorb all the oil " and fibre the tropics are likely to send for generations to come, " however great the supply " (Simmonds, *Op. cit.*, p. 244). The " cake," or " poonac," of the copra after expression of the oil forms a valuable cattle food. " The development of the growth of the " cocoanut proceeds in the Lagos Colony in the hands of the " Government, whose lead has been followed to some extent by " the natives." (Moloney, Sketch of the Forestry of West Africa, p. 65.) This example might be advantageously followed by the Gold Coast Government with similar results. Such a tract of land as that lying between the beach and the road from Elmina to Cape Coast might be planted in cocoanuts by the Government, and the fruit worked up by the convicts in the Cape Coast and Elmina gaols, forming a source of revenue to cover their maintenance, and serving as an object lesson to the natives.

Utilisation of cake.

Cultivation at Lagos.

Castor-oil plant.

18. The castor-oil plant grows freely, and although the seeds are occasionally used medicinally no attempt is made to extract the oil. This plant forms an excellent hedge and is worth the attention of planters. The seeds might be exported, as they are worth about 6*l.* per ton in the European market, or the oil might be expressed. Large quantities of this oil are imported into Europe from the East Indies at a price of 2*d.* to 2½ lbs. = 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon; it is chiefly used for lubricating purposes on the Continent, as it is found not to thicken, and the demand for this purpose is likely to increase, especially in Germany.

Physic-nut.

19. From the fruit of the physic-nut (*Curcas purgans*) an oil is extracted by the Portuguese which is largely used by them for soap-making. It may thus be made a source of direct profit when planted as a hedge, for which purpose it is already extensively used.

Ground-nut.

20. The ground-nut has already been referred to under the head of food-crops. In order to re-establish the external trade in this article it will be necessary to import seed of a superior variety*, as the native stock has so degenerated as to render the culture on a large scale unprofitable. The plants are so weakened as to produce few seeds, while the seeds themselves are deficient in oil.

Gums and Gum Resins.

Gum copal.

21. Gum copal is found in considerable quantities in the Colony, and a trade is carried on in it principally with the United States, but as it is not the produce of cultivation it does not come within the purview of this report.

* I ordered some whilst on my way from England.—W.B.G.

Although the youngest of our industries, the manufacture of india-rubber is now only second in importance to that of palm-oil. Attention was first drawn to this valuable product by Mr. Alfred Moloney (now Governor of Lagos) when administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony in 1882, by letters to the local press. The first practical experiments were made by Mr. F. C. Grant, of Cape Coast, whose example was quickly followed by others, and the undertaking proving remunerative, the collection of rubber began in every part of the Colony, and the quantity now produced annually ranges from 30,000*l.* to 40,000*l.* in value, although in the meantime the price has fallen considerably. The principal sources of supply are the various species of Landolphia and the Urostigma Vogelii, but a large quantity is also obtained from the Tabernæmontani Crassus. The preparation is slovenly, and a wet process is usually followed resulting in an inferior, wet, and ill-smelling article. "There are many applications where "the inferior kinds, irrespective of their being cheaper, are better "adapted than the finer descriptions." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, Div. III., p. 1143.) This fact will prevent the African rubber ever going entirely out of demand, but in order to ensure a large and constant sale the best quality should be the aim of the producers. The wet process causes the product to lose greatly in weight in the process of manufacture in Europe, which of course tends to lower the value still further. It would seem also that this defect is increasing. "Negrohead of good quality may be taken as losing 20 to 25 per "cent.; 15 per cent. was formerly a fair figure, but the practice "now is to pack the rubber in very large masses, and frequently "to empty into it non-inspissated juice, so that it reaches the "English markets quite saturated." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, Div. III., p. 1144.) "The non-inspissated juice mixed with the rubber gives "it an unpleasant taste and smell when vulcanised, and the produce "is softer than other qualities." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, p. 1143.) The German traders in the Colony obtain a higher price for the rubber shipped by them by cutting it into small pieces, pressing between grooved steel rollers to express the non-coagulated juice, washing it to get rid of foreign matters, again passing it through the rollers, and finally drying it. The process is long and tedious. but raises the value of the product by 50 per cent. All this trouble would be rendered unnecessary by proper treatment of the milk in the first instance. "The African rubbers are more "adhesive and less elastic than the Pará article, and command an "inferior price; the inferiority could be much reduced by an "improved system of preparation." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, Div. V., p. 1656.) Various systems have been proposed with a view of producing a better article. The most feasible and simple appears to be to cause the rubber to rise to the surface of the milk by boiling; cutting the rubber into small pieces—say, 6 inches square by ½ to 1 inch thick; to thoroughly free it from water by means of a handpress, and then to thoroughly dry it by exposure to the sun. Rubber thus prepared sold in 1882 for 2*s.* 11*d.* per pound, and would probably sell even now for 2*s.*, the price of the ordinary

India-rubber industry.

Species of plants.

Defects in preparation.

Suggested improvements.

Gold Coast.

article being 10*d.* The plant required for this process is not costly, and can easily be made portable, so as to be moved from place to place as the supply of milk gets exhausted and the collectors migrate. Whatever process is adopted, the milk should be coagulated as soon as possible after collection, for decomposition rapidly sets in and materially modifies the character of the article. The use of salt and alum should be avoided, as these are injurious to the quality of the rubber on account of the "wetness" which is caused by the presence of saline particles, which are never completely removed by pressing. The following extract from "Christy's New Commercial Plants and Drugs" (No. 7, page 25) is worthy of attention :—"Sir John Kirk suggested to me to try "the effect of spirit on the milk, and I did so. As soon as the "spirit touched the milk it turned it into a solid body. . . . . "After the spirit has coagulated the juice or milk, it is a good "plan to wash it with water." The necessity of thoroughly drying the rubber must never be overlooked. "This question "of drying seems to have much to do with the quality of the "rubber, and the inferiority of African to Pará rubber is largely "attributed to its being sent into commerce in a raw, green state, "whence possibly also arises its disagreeable odour, generated by "decomposition. The desirability of introducing the Attalea "Excelsa for the purpose of employing its nut (the Urucari) in "curing African rubber as in Pará has even been discussed, "but the slow smoky fire from any oily nut would probably have "the same effect." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, Div. V., p. 1655.)

As long as no better use can be found for the palm-nuts, it might be worth while to use them for this purpose. It is to be feared that the present method of collecting the milk is by cutting the vines instead of tapping them, and that this will lead to an early exhaustion of the supply; already the collectors have been compelled to move to a considerable distance from the sea and the ports, the forests near the coast being exhausted. If it is impossible to regulate the mode of collection (as in Assam), steps should be taken to keep up the supply by planting. It has been suggested by Christy that the Landolphia should be cultivated in plantations, the vines being cut to the ground every year, the whole plant pressed between rollers, and the juice thus extracted treated with carbon bisulphide, which (he says) dissolves the rubber, but not the injurious gummy matter. As the Landolphia will grow in situations unsuitable for any other cultivation the experiment is worth trying.

Cultivation of Landolphia.

(C.)—*Timber.*

Timber supply.

22. The forests of the country form an untouched mine of wealth which only requires the introduction of a cheap method of transport to be developed. A large export trade might be carried on after all local wants are supplied, and yet the Colony is at present actually importing timber from the United States for building purposes. Here, as everywhere else, the enormous cost

of carriage is the obstacle to the development of trade. The woods known to exist in the forests are edoom, dantah, cedar, ebony, camwood, and barwood, and other valuable kinds could doubtless be discovered if there were any prospect of their being profitably worked. The three first named are cabinet woods, and excellent furniture is locally made from them. If brought under the notice of English cabinet-makers and a regular supply ensured, an important trade would no doubt spring up. It is much to be regretted that advantage was not taken of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to ascertain the commercial value of the timber and other products of the country. The neglect of the opportunity was so remarkable as to call forth the following pointed remark in the Report on the Colonial Section:—"In the West African Court "it is significant and illustrative of a remarkable feature in this "branch of the Exhibition that an English company had the "finest, indeed almost the only good, exhibit in the Court" (p. 265). It must, however, be admitted that full advantage has not been taken by the inhabitants of the Colony of the opportunities which exist for the development of this trade. The forests on the banks of the Ancobra, Prah, Amissah, Ayinsu, and Volta rivers contain millions of cubic feet of valuable timber which might be cut within a short distance of the stream, and floated down to the mouth at the smallest possible cost for transport. Such attempts as have been made to export timbers have been generally rendered unprofitable by seeking the timber inland, necessitating land carriage, instead of utilising the waterways; others have failed for want of capital, and hence no adequate effort on an extensive scale has been carried out, the failure of the smaller undertakings having effectually discouraged larger ones. The fact of failure has been taken as sufficient reason for not making further efforts, without attempting to discover the causes which led to it, and to ensure success by avoiding them. But while it is desirable to encourage the felling and exportation of timber, not only as a source of wealth, but as throwing open to cultivation new tracts of land, and, by drying the soil, diminishing the production of miasma, the concomitant dangers must not be overlooked. The example of too many countries teaches the consequence of reckless and excessive deforestation in droughts and soils rendered barren and uncultivable for want of water, and therefore the development of this industry should be carefully overlooked and accompanied by regulations for preserving and replacing an extent of forest sufficient to maintain the trade, and the flow of the rivers which depend so largely for their continuance during the dry seasons on the supplies of moisture retained by the vegetation at their sources.

Prohibitive cost of transport.

Species of woods.

Suggested water transport.

Evils of deforestation.

(D.)—*Fibres.*

23. In fibres we have an important source of wealth awaiting development. Although cotton grows wild in the Colony it is totally neglected, except in the Volta district, where Messieurs

Cotton fibre.

GOLD COAST.

F. and A. Swanzy have established a plantation. "I was glad to "find in 1885 that a long established and prominent house of "West African notoriety, Messrs. Swanzy, took the lead in the "Gold Coast Colony in the matter of the development of the "Volta Valley export cotton trade. They had and have a grand "inlet and outlet in the Volta River, and deserve every encou- "ragement and success. They intended to utilise the force of the "river, and divert some of it towards the working of suitable "machinery which they exported to the Gold Coast." (Moloney, *Op. cit.*, page 142.) As will be seen from Schedule A., the quantity exported is extremely small. The cotton growing wild appears to be of the Brazilian variety, of a good colour, but short in staple; for cultivation on a large scale it would be advisable to introduce Egyptian seed or some of the better American varieties. Messrs. Swanzy use Egyptian. Besides the fibre the seeds of the plant may be made a source of profit, either by exporting them as they are or by the expression and exportation of the oil which they contain. It is interesting to note that cotton is largely cultivated in the country behind Kumasi, and the yarn worked up into cloth in the country. The silk-cotton tree yields a fibre which is largely imported into Holland from the Indian Archipelago under the name of Kapok, and is used for stuffing furniture. The enormous number of silk-cotton trees existing in the Colony would yield a plentiful supply, if the people were aware that it is worth collecting and exporting. The timber of these trees is used for making fishing-canoes, each of which is cut out of a single trunk by burning away the wood along the central line of the hollow part of the intended canoe, and finishing off with an adze; the outside is then trimmed with a chisel.

Export from Volta Valley.

Silk-cotton, value of.

Pineapple fibre.

24. Besides its delicious fruit the pineapple yields one of the finest fibres known to commerce. As the leaves can be made into fibre after the fruit is cut, a double profit may be realised, but if it is intended to work up the leaves the fruit should be cut before it is ripe as this causes a considerable extra development of the leaves. If the plant is grown principally for the sake of the fruit it should be fully exposed to the light, but if for the fibre, under shade, which favours the growth of the leaves at the expense of the fruit. (Semler, "Die Tröpische Agrikultur"). As the plant grows wild in the country, and needs next to no care in cultivation, while yielding a most valuable fibre which can be manufactured into textile fabrics, makes an excellent rope, and good paper, it deserves attention. The example of the Bahamas, which have established a trade in the tinned fruit, might also be followed. Almost any part of the Colony could grow this valuable plant. "The simple mode of testing the capability of the soil for growing "the pineapple in the Bahamas is by running a knife down it in "dry weather, and if any portion of the earth adheres to the "knife, it is considered by the planter an evidence of the suita- "bility of the soil." (Simmonds, *Op. cit.*, page 449.) The average annual export of this fruit from the Bahamas is 600,000

Canned pine-apple trade.

Suitability of soil test.

of the value of 40,000*l.* (Semler, *Op. cit.*, Vol. II., p. 147), but the fibre does not appear to be made use of. GOLD COAST.

25. The plantain might easily be made of even greater value to this Colony. The plantain and banana yield excellent fibres, immense quantities of which might be obtained from the plants already in existence. A plantain stalk will give on an average 4 lbs. of fibre of various qualities. The banana yields a smaller quantity of slightly inferior quality. Plantain and banana fibres.

The Rev. T. B. Freeman states that he has seen jute growing wild near Cape Coast. Jute.

26. In the present undeveloped state of West African botany it is impossible to give an exhaustive list of fibre-yielding plants, and the discovery and examination of such should be among the first duties of the Superintendent of the Botanic Stations. List of fibres required.

27. "The industrial application and commercial value of a fibre "depend principally upon its physical qualities of length, strength, "elasticity, firmness, colour, and upon its capacity for taking "dyes. The majority of these qualities are affected more or less "by the mode of cultivation, the period of harvesting, and the "method of preparation." (Spon, *Op. cit.*, Div. III., p. 909.) The value of a fibre will vary according as it is adapted for (*a.*) paper-making, (*b.*) rope-making, or (*c.*) yarns and woven tissues. Value of fibres for different purposes.

28. (*a.*) For paper-making the fibres may be thin and short, but must have a curly disposition, such as felt, otherwise they can only be used as a sort of filling. Fibres intended for this purpose must be able to compete in cheapness with esparto-grass, which is put on the market at 6*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

29. (*b.*) For rope-making fibres may be coarse, but must be flexible and unite the two conditions of tenacity and resistance to climate. Lightness is an advantage, and they should be apt to absorb tar.

30. (*c.*) Fibres fit for weaving are the most valuable. They should be of a good colour, or capable of being easily bleached, long, glossy, flexible, and should have a natural twist. The whole subject of the microscopic and chemical examination of fibres is exhaustively treated in Christy's "New Commercial Plants and Drugs," No. 6, from which the above hints are extracted.

31. A sample of long white fibre sent from this Colony has been valued at 22*l.* per ton, which may be taken as an average value for fibres of Class C. The so-called aloes and the sanseverias are capable of yielding fibre of this quality, and as they will grow abundantly in soils unsuited for other cultivation they are worthy of attention. The main difficulty at present in this branch of agriculture is to effect the economical extraction of the fibre, but as the attention of European machinists is now turned to the problem it will probably soon be solved. For pineapples the machines of Sanford and Mallory give good results and might be easily applied to the aloe and sanseveria. For fibre-yielding grasses the machine known as Patrullo's is specially adapted, and great promise is held out by the newly-invented machines of Wallace for the treatment of flax, which might easily be adapted to Fibre-extraction machines.

GOLD COAST.

the extraction of other fibres. For the profitable exportation of fibre it is essentially necessary to reduce the bulk. The hydraulic press gives the maximum of power, but is costly; simple presses are now made in large variety; any of those intended for baling cotton are applicable to all other fibres.

(E.)—*Drugs.*

32. A large number of plants are used medicinally by the natives, but too little is known of this department to allow of particularization. No doubt examination of the flora by botanists will lead to the discovery of many plants as valuable as the Strophanthus, to which attention has been lately directed. Some specimens were sent to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, but they appear to have been insufficient for the decision of their sources, for the reports contain but one short paragraph on the subject of West African drugs. "In the West African Courts "a large number of native drugs were shown, and some among "them would probably be worth further examination in regard "to their composition and therapeutic effects; but so little is "known respecting them that it would be of little use to refer "to them more particularly." (Report cited, supra, page 257.)

Investigation of drugs.

(F.)—*Coffee.*

Introduction of coffee.

33. Coffee has long been grown in the Aquapim district under the auspices of the Basel Mission, who introduced the seed from the West Indies in 1843. The early plantations were destroyed by the Ashantees in 1869, but were (at least in part) re-established, and nothing but perseverance and capital are required to develop this culture, as the following extract will show:—"In 1881 coffee "was grown on the small plantation of a native near Nsatsi on "the Aquapim Hills to the extent of 5 cwt. This crop was "cleaned and packed by manual labour, and exported to Ham- "burg, with the result of a return at the rate of between 1*s.* to "1*s.* 1*d.* per lb., which speaks well for the natives' labour, and "points to what can be done on those hills." (Moloney, *Op. cit.*, p. 108.) The following paragraph, translated from a letter dated Hô, 6th November 1888, from the Rev. Matthew Seeger, of the North German Missionary Society, will show that the cultivation is still maintained and promises success when the proper methods of preparation shall have been learnt:—"In the years 1860–69 "coffee and tobacco plantations were established here. The "former bore very well till they were destroyed by the Ashantees. "Since then several coffee plantations have been laid out by "natives (all Christians) and are cultivated with satisfaction and "contentment. Failure in the necessary preparation, or rather "utter ignorance, have hindered their development. The plants "themselves thrive admirably." The coffee thus introduced appears to be the 'Coffea Arabica,' but the Liberian variety offers

Good growth of plants.

greater advantages, as it can be grown on the plains and in the neighbourhood of the sea, while it is much more prolific. "An "estate of 20 or 30 acres well looked after would yield as much "coffee as one with 200 or 300 acres of 'Coffea Arabica or Ceylon.' "Coffee berries are like plums, as big." (Christy, New Commercial Plants and Drugs, No. 1, page 5, quoted from "Ceylon Observer.") The first crop is generally only a few berries, but the tree goes on increasing until it becomes capable of yielding 20 pounds. "We "have heard of trees giving 24 pounds each; those are very old "trees" (ditto, p. 4). This is undoubtedly the first product to which intending cultivators should turn their attention. The last year has seen a considerable rise in the price in Europe, which is likely to be maintained in consequence of the falling off of supplies from Ceylon, Java, and Brazil, so that no produce gives a more promising outlook than this. African coffee is at present very low in the market owing to defective preparation, but this can be overcome by care, skill, and the use of proper machinery. As Liberian coffee, grown and prepared in Ceylon, realises 105*s.* per cwt., there is evidently no defect inherent in the seed to cause it to be valued at 65*s.* to 70*s.*, as quoted for African. Careful cultivation and preparation should place African coffee on a level with any other. The experiment of shipping the coffee in the "parchment" to be cleaned and sorted in England has been recently tried by Southern India and Venezuela with encouraging results, and is worthy of the attention of coffee growers. In shipping coffee in this condition it is essential that it be thoroughly dried before shipment.

Species recommended.

Value.

Shipment in "parchment."

(G.)—*Cocoa.*

34. This is another product worthy of every attention. Attempts on a small scale have been made to introduce it into the country, but no information is obtainable as to the results. The culture is cheap and the preparation simple, so that it should receive the attention of small cultivators. Its only disadvantage is the length of time (five years) before a crop is obtainable, but with so much unoccupied land the growers of cocoa can fill in the time by the cultivation of other crops in the intervals between the necessary handlings of the young trees.

Cocoa, advantages of.

(H.)—*Tobacco*

35. Tobacco is largely consumed in the country, which draws its supplies from the United States. The plant grows wild throughout the Colony, but is not utilised, although considerable quantities are grown and manufactured for home consumption in Ashantee, Dahomey and the Niger country. The plant grows to a fair size, and the only difficulty to be overcome is that of curing the leaf, but the art might be learnt here, as it has been in Ashantee and Dahomey, and an article produced fit, at least, for local con-

Tobacco manufacture in interior.

GOLD COAST.

Cultivation attempted.

sumption. The cultivation has been undertaken by Mr. R. A. Ferguson near Anamaboe, and by Mr. Arthur in the vicinity of Winnebah.

(I.)—*Sugar.*

Growth of sugar cane.

36. The sugar cane is grown in small quantities, and is only used for chewing. The production can be indefinitely developed, if the manufacture of sugar can be made profitable.

(K.)—*Kola-nut.*

Kola-nut, value of.

37. The kola has lately been attracting considerable attention in Europe, and may in the future become a valuable article of commerce. "Although the kola-nut, also called the gouru or "orubené seed, has long been known, it has only recently been "submitted to a careful chemical investigation. MM. Heckel "and Schlagdenhauffen (*Comptes Rendus*, 20th, p. 802) point "out that this seed is richer in caffeine than the best coffee, "and that the alkaloid exists in it in a free state. It contains, "in addition, the same alkaloid as cocoa, viz., theobromine, "and a considerable quantity of glucose. It has the advan-"tage over cocoa of containing but little fatty matter, and

Constituents.

"three times as much starch as cacao beans. As the fat is gene-"rally removed from cocoa and starch of some kind added, it is "obvious that we have here a product which combines the best "qualities of coffee and cocoa, and which might therefore form a "most valuable basis for a new beverage, which, if appropriately "treated and flavoured, might even supersede to a certain extent "coffee and cocoa. Under such circumstances, the cultivation of "the plant might form an important source of income." (Christy, *Op. cit.*, No. 6, p. 62.) The author of the pamphlet from which the above is quoted is making efforts to introduce the use of this nut as a substitute for cocoa and coffee, and has obtained most favourable opinions of its capacity from some of the most celebrated European chocolate manufacturers, who are willing to contract for supplies. The only obstacle to the development of

Indigenous to Colony.

the trade is the uncertainty of the supply. As the tree is indigenous to this country, and grows in vast numbers in Akim, Assin, and other districts, this Colony should be able to meet the demand, and attention given to this tree is likely to be highly profitable.

Method of planting.

It can be grown from seeds or cuttings, should be planted out at distances of 20 × 30 feet, comes into bearing in the fourth year, the crops increasing till the tenth year. A full crop is estimated at 120 to 150 lbs. per tree. The tree is hardy and is easily cultivated, will grow at any elevation below 1,000 feet, and at sea level on the sea-coast or interior, and its produce is likely to be in greater demand from year to year. A small trade is carried on in the nuts with

Trade with Brazil.

"Lagos" (*see* Schedule A.), whence the nuts appear to be exported to Brazil. The nuts are purchased on the Gold Coast by natives of Lagos, who ship them fresh in large baskets lined and covered

with large green leaves. For the European market the nuts should be carefully and slowly dried, "IN THE SHADE, where a "current of air will pass over them, there is then very little "shrinkage and fine dry nuts are obtained." (Christy, *Op. cit.*, No. 8, p. 13.) Worm-eaten, shrivelled, and otherwise defective nuts are valueless.

Preparation for shipment.

(L.)—*Spices.*

38. The Guinea grain has long been an article of export from the coast of Guinea, and gives its name to the "Grain" Coast. Other and better spices have long displaced it from its high place in the culinary arts, and the demand for it at the present is small and spasmodic, but has recently increased considerably. It is cultivated on a small scale in various parts of the country, and is an ingredient in most native medicines. The plant does not seem to be adapted for cultivation on a large scale. There are many other spice seeds and barks used by the natives, the names and properties of most of which are unknown. The African cubeb is the only one which has received a botanical name, *Piper* (*Chavica*) *Clusii.*

Guinea-grain, export of.

Native spices unknown.

(M.)—*Dyes.*

39. There appear to be only two dyes in use amongst the natives, a brown and a black, the sources of which are unknown.

40. Camwood exists in great abundance throughout the country, and there are numerous varieties of indigo, but no use is made of them in the Colony, although in the interior and at Lagos indigo of a fair quality is made and extensively used for dyeing both native and European fabrics. Mr. Moloney (*Op. cit.*, p. 153) states that a sample of Yoruba indigo taken home by him in 1883 was valued at 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb., although it contained a good deal of earthy matter. A more careful preparation would lead to a better price, and the cultivation might be made as profitable on the Gold Coast as it has been found to be in the East Indies.

Camwood dye.

Value of indigo.

41. Although the Gold Coast Colony is adapted for the raising of almost any tropical growth, it exports hardly any agricultural produce, save palm-oil and kernels, the products of the *Elais Guineensis.* The question naturally arises why, with a fertile soil, an enormous extent of forest and an agricultural population, is there not a large trade in timber and the other products of the country? It is too often taken for granted that the fault lies with the natives of the Colony: that they are too lazy to work. This has a specious air of truth. The native of the Gold Coast is indolent because he has few wants, and these being easily gratified he has small inducement to continuous labour; but under proper superintendence he is capable of heavy and continuous work, and is willing to undertake it for a fair wage. He does not make use of the valuable products of his country because, in most cases, he is ignorant of their value. The rapid development of the trade in india-rubber is a proof that the natives of the Gold Coast are

Paucity of produce exported.

Rapid progress of india-rubber trade.

GOLD COAST.

capable of taking advantage of their opportunities when they are made aware of them, and that they are willing to incur the labour necessary to develop the resources of their country if they see promise of an adequate return, but they naturally do not care to undertake labour which is to be its own reward. The principal reason of the neglect of native products is the difficulty of transporting cumbersome goods, which arises from the want of roads, as, too often, the vendor, having collected his produce and brought it to market, finds the value is swallowed up by the cost of transport. Except in the immediate vicinity of the largest coast towns there are no "roads" in the country. The so-called roads are mere footpaths, 12 to 18 inches broad, with the high bush on each side, tortuous, blocked with fallen trunks, flooded with water in the rainy season, interrupted by bridgeless rivers which must be waded, and crossed by unbridged gullies which must be descended on one side and scrambled up on the other. Even in travelling between the principal towns the journey must in great part be performed along the beach through heavy sand for want of a highway. Nowhere in the Colony are there to be found roads fit for carriage traffic which can be made available for bringing to the ports the produce grown in the interior. Under such circumstances a large trade in produce is impossible. The only available beast of burden is man, the weakest and most costly of all. All the produce that is exported is brought down from the plantations to the coast on the heads of men and women, and in every case the cost of transport at least doubles the cost. This gives his opportunity to the middleman, who steps in and makes his profit out of producer and exporter, and injures the trade of the country by adulteration. The first step towards developing the resources of the country must be the establishment of good roads between the producing districts and the ports of shipment. Whatever may be the cost of covering the Colony with roads it will be amply repaid, not only by increased trade and increased revenue arising therefrom, but by the spread of enlightenment and civilisation through the interior by frequent communication with the coast. Along the roads trade will flow, merchants will follow the trade to its sources, missionaries will establish their schools, new desires will be implanted in the people, and they will be aroused to industry by the wish to gratify those wants. The English nation has accepted the government of this country with the avowed object of civilising and raising the people to Christianity. These objects cannot be effected by a string of settlements on the sea-shore. The people of the interior must be brought into immediate contact with the advantages of civilisation before they can appreciate them. As proof that the contact will be effective we point to the progress made by the coast towns within the last 50 years. With such evidence in view it cannot be denied that the native of the Gold Coast is ready to adopt improved methods and new manners. Instruct him in improved methods of cultivation, and point out to him the valuable products of his country, and he will readily adopt the one

Difficulties of transport.

Absence of roads.

Establishment recommended.

Amenability of natives to improvement.

and utilise the others. It only required to be shown that india-rubber was obtainable in the country and was valuable in Europe for this resource to be availed of, bringing into existence a new branch of trade which has risen from an export of 64 cwt. and a value of 170*l.* in 1882 to 1,163 cwt. and 62,430*l.* in 1887. At present, for want of proper roads, communication between different parts of the country is slow and infrequent, travelling is difficult and expensive, the interior of the Colony is practically unknown, the riches of the country are unutilised, and the inhabitants of the interior are no further from savagery than they were when the country was first visited by white men. The country is unfortunate in not possessing waterways, but this is only one reason the more for making good and numerous roads. In the work of civilisation ten strokes of the spade will be found worth a ton of Ordinances. With good roads beasts of burden will be introduced and the cost of transport will be thereby reduced, raising the price payable to the producer, and thus encouraging him to increased production. The contact of exporter and producer will lead to the introduction of improved methods of manufacture, and the sight of the products of Europe will spur the planter to draw from the soil its utmost production to enable him to possess them.

Progress of rubber trade.

Introduction of beasts of burden.

The time favours the enterprise. The trade of the country is suffering under a double calamity. The long-continued disturbances in Ashantee have paralysed the trade with the far interior, while the heavy fall in the price of palm-oil has struck a serious blow at the internal trade. New resources are urgently required to restore the prosperity of the country, and where can these be found so well as in its own productions? a solution which the public mind has already grasped, as shown by the general desire to find the means of trade within the Colony, so that it may cease to be dependent on the political condition of its neighbours. The timber of the forests of the Colony and the productions of its soil are unexplored and unworked mines of wealth, which can only be utilised by improved means of communication and transport. In the work of exploration the Government must lead. It is beyond the capacity of private purses, nor are the people as yet sufficiently enlightened to appreciate the value of such labours until it is practically shown them. By the establishment of good roads, by the introduction of beasts of burden, by the opening of experimental gardens as training schools for young native agriculturists, the minds of the natives will be turned to the sure foundations of prosperity, agricultural labour intelligently directed, and the wide bases of trade to be found in a large variety of commodities produced in the country. By such steps the prosperity of the country will be raised to a level never yet reached, the balance of the revenue will be restored, and means obtained for the introduction of other instruments to a still higher advancement. Not in its gold-bearing rocks, but in its fertile soil will the Gold Coast find an inexhaustible and certain fund of wealth, and every step in that direction will lead to further advance. "Agriculture,"

New resources required.

Initiation of work by Government.

Gold Coast.

says Carlyle, "is the mother of manufactures," and the foundation of the prosperity of every State will be found in the produce of its soil wrung out by the labour of its people.

Direction roads should take.

42. The direction which these roads should take is pointed out by the present trade routes. There are eight principal lines of trade having their outlets at Dixcove, Chama, Elmina, Cape Coast, Salt Pond, Winnebah, Akusi, and Quittah. The line to Cape Coast is principally used by the Ashantee traders, but a considerable trade in india-rubber is carried on along it, which is capable of development by reducing the cost of transport, and there are timber and other products in which a large trade could be done between that town and the country behind it on the same condition.

Cart roads to oil centres.

43. From each of the other towns named a road should be run to the oil-producing district behind it, broad enough for carts, with moderate gradients so as to be available for small power, and with all rivers and gullies bridged. It is impossible to travel through the oil districts without being struck by and lamenting the enormous waste of produce which is everywhere apparent. One walks among thousands of splendid trees in full bearing with the nuts falling off ungathered, and at the places where the oil is made heaps of nuts, worth hundreds, and, collectively, many thousands, of pounds are seen rotting, because, with his defective means, the owner cannot bring them to market. The oil is made in the most careless and wasteful manner, the quality being thereby injured and the price reduced, while the process of cracking the nuts by hand is so slow that there is not the time to carry it out. Contact with the European merchant and the discovery that pure clean pays better than bad and dirty oil will effect a revolution in oil making and an enormous increase in the out-turn; while the introduction of the kernel-cracking machines of Gunnell and other makers will render it possible to utilise the whole of the kernels, or oil-mills will turn them into a fine and valuable oil. Such improvements are not worth attention as long as the cost and difficulty of conveying the produce to market render the labour unremunerative. Improved means of communication will lead to a great and immediate increase in the exports of palm-oil and kernels, but the country's prosperity will always be subject to violent shocks while it rests on a single product. Efforts should be made, therefore, to render it independent of the state of any single market by broadening the basis of trade by the introduction of foreign products and the exploitation of native growths. The plants wihch have been found profitable in other countries should be introduced and tried, and the forests searched for economic plants. Steps should be taken to bring to the knowledge of the people new staples and to instruct them in their cultivation. No better means can be used than the establishment of experimental gardens under trained botanists, men capable not only of dealing with known plants, but also of developing such as are indigenous to the country and whose qualities are at present unknown. The examples of the botanic gardens of the Lagos and Niger Govern-

Present waste of produce.

Improved transport conducive to improved manufacture.

Multiplication of staples.

Establishment of botanic gardens.

ments are encouragement to the effort. Besides the above purposes these gardens should be utilised as training stations for young natives to teach them civilised methods of cultivation to enable them either to cultivate the soil for themselves or to take charge of plantations established by others. This is the more important in view of the unsuitability of the climate for the prolonged residence of the natives of northern climates. While "petite culture" will no doubt be largely followed by natives, large plantations must for many years be dependent on European capital, but no European will think of starting a plantation unless he is able to find someone to take charge of it when he is obliged to leave the Colony for his health's sake. No greater boon could be bestowed on the country than such an opening for the employment of its youth who now flood the clerical market and have almost reduced the rate of wages below the means of living. All our towns are filled with young men seeking in vain a livelihood in clerical offices while vast fields of labour are left untouched. The enormous benefits conferred on the West Indian Islands by their botanic stations are proofs of the value of these institutions which render amplification unnecessary. A liberal grant from the revenue for the establishment of such a station will be a profitable investment.

Agricultural training stations.

44. In connexion with this question of communication must be considered the means of transporting the produce. At present everything is carried on the heads of human beings, the ordinary load being 50 lbs. to 60 lbs., and the average pay 2*s.* 6*d.* per day's journey of about 10 miles. As a gallon of oil weighs 7½ lbs., a load will be about 8 gallons, making the cost of transport nearly 4*d.* per gallon. The market price varies from 6*d.* to 9*d.*, more often approaching the former figure than the latter. The average price may be taken at 7½*d.*, leaving 3½*d.* per gallon to pay for the labour of cultivating and manufacturing and manufacturer's profit. After purchase the oil costs the shipper 2*d.* per gallon for caskage and 2*d.* more for conveyance to the beach and shipping, so that out of a total cost of 1*s.* per gallon f.o.b. at the port of shipment, carriage accounts for 6*d.* or 50 per cent. It is therefore evident that improved means of carriage will enable the manufacturer to obtain a higher price and thus lead to an increased output. It has been said that it is useless to make wide roads, because the people accustomed to walk in single file will only use a small portion. The custom cannot be disputed, but it arises from the people being restricted to the narrow paths which do duty as roads in this country. If the natives of the interior of the Colony will not use the wide roads, the traders of the coast will be glad to do so in order to come into contact with the growers and to crush out the middleman, and in order to increase their profits will make use of carts to cheapen the carriage of their goods and produce. The fact that no beasts of burden are used in the country is accounted for in the same way: there are no roads adapted to the purpose. Oxen and horses live and thrive, amongst other places, at Appollonia, Elmina, Anamaboe, Appam, and Accra, and the question

Statistics of cost of oil transport.

Introduction of beasts of burden.

Gold Coast.

Veterinary surgeon required.

whether they will live at other points has never been fairly tried, as no competent veterinary has ever resided on the Coast An incalculable service would be rendered by the attachment to one of the botanical stations of a skilful veterinary surgeon entrusted with the duty of studying the diseases of cattle in the country, instructing natives in their management, and making suggestions for the improvement of native breeds. Even European cattle will live on the coast, as about 1850 Heer Vander Eb, Governor of the Dutch Settlements, had Dutch cows at Elmina from which he bred. The cattle of Salaga or the Niger would probably afford safer stocks for crossing the indigenous breeds, which are deficient in size and strength. At places where the presence of the Tsetse renders the introduction of oxen and horses impossible, the mule and ass can take their place, as these latter do not succumb to the attack of the fly. This is a point of such vast importance that it is deserving of a persevering effort. By developing traffic the use of cattle will pave the way to the profitable introduction of railways, which, if laid down under present circumstances, would be obliged to spend an unprofitable period in that task. The introduction of cattle will also lead to the use of ploughs and other improved implements, and thus tend powerfully to improve agriculture. The sight of yokes of oxen drawing Government carts would lead to a rapid and general adoption of the system by private individuals, if they could avail themselves at need of the services of a person competent to deal with the ailment of their beasts. No one, however, will make the experiment with the prospect of losing his cattle by the first indisposition, as must happen when there is no one at hand with any knowledge of the proper treatment.

Improved agricultural implements.

45. Besides the question of communications there is that of capital. The country is undoubtedly poor, and the resources of the people have been diminished by the long period of depression which has prevailed for many years, so that they cannot hope to undertake large agricultural operations without assistance. It will be necessary to attract European capital, and in order to do this a liberal policy on the part of the Government will be necessary. The examples of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements should be studied and followed as far as practicable. Planters should be encouraged by constructing roads to facilitate the transport of their produce; grants-in-aid of such roads as are not of sufficient public importance to warrant their being made solely by the Government should be given; and, if a means of securing the revenue from loss can be devised, advances might be made to owners of plantations undertaking cultivation in proportion to the amount of capital sunk by themselves. A mere "benevolent interest" on the part of the Government will not tend to encourage efforts in this direction. The Government must take visible and active part in the movement. If it is to perform its duty to the country, it must extend a helping hand to any genuine effort to develop the resources of the country by civilised methods of culture.

Attraction of European capital.

Road grants-in-aid.

46. For direct aid by irrigation works and bounties the time will arrive only when some progress has been made in the development of agriculture by private enterprise and capital, but the following steps are recommended to the Government for immediate adoption with a view of increasing the production of the staples of the Colony, giving an impetus to improvement, and encouraging the introduction of new products:—

Recommendations.

A. The construction of roads suited for carriage traffic.
B. The establishment of experimental gardens.
C. The passing of an Ordinance legalising the principle of "limited liability."

Description of roads.

47.—A. The roads should be not less than 15 feet broad, with all gullies and rivers bridged, and with easy gradients so as to be suited for small power. These roads should run from the following ports to the oil districts behind them, viz., Dixcove, Chama, Elmina, Salt Pond, Winnebah, Akusi, and Quittah. A road should be run from Cape Coast to Prahsue for the development of the rubber and timber trades, as well as for the use of the traders from the interior; another line from the same town to Abrakrampa would lead to a considerable trade in palm-oil and palm-kernels and to the development of the Abra district. The road from Salt Pond should run to Ejumaku and Aborah, throwing off a branch at Ayimnaim to the Ayin district. The road from Winnebah should be run so as to tap the Goomoah district. The road from Akusie should run into Krobo. The line from Quittah should proceed viâ Anyaku, Abloun, and Adaklu to Hô. Along all these lines a considerable trade is already carried on even under the difficulties of transport already existing, which trade will receive considerable impetus from facilities of carriage.

Location of botanic stations.

48.—B. If it is impracticable to establish more than one botanic station, it should be in the neighbourhood of one of the principal towns, so as to keep it under the attention of the greatest possible number of educated natives, who are the portion of the community most likely, at present, to benefit by the example. The station should be in charge of a skilled botanist whose duties should be to study the native flora and ascertain its capabilities of development and industrial application; to make experiments in the cultivation and improvement of native products; to introduce foreign products; to make his station a distributing centre for new and useful economic plants, and improved varieties of old; to afford information and guidance to persons actively engaged and interested in agriculture; to keep a regular meteorological record; and to instruct and train young natives in practical and scientific agriculture. The duties of a superintendent of such a station are so well set out in the "Suggestions (with modifications capable of "easy adoption in West Africa) for the information of Colonial "Governments about to appoint Superintendents of Botanical "Gardens, and for the guidance of the Superintendents themselves" quoted in Mr. Moloney's admirable and useful work on

Duties of superintendent

GOLD COAST.

the "Forestry of West Africa" (pp. 259 *et seq.*), that it is only necessary to refer to it.

Limited liability, principle of, advantageous.

49.—C. The passing of an Ordinance establishing the principle of "*limited liability*" will overcome one of the chief difficulties in the way of the development of the Colony by facilitating the raising of capital for agricultural and other industrial undertakings on a large scale. The Commission would fail in its duty if it did not endeavour most earnestly to impress upon the Government of the Colony the immense importance of the subject under review from every point of view, financial, political, commercial, and sanitary. By the diffusion of the wealth to be brought into existence by the development of its agricultural resources the Colony will be relieved from the financial difficulties which threaten it; by the contact with civilisation which will follow from easy and rapid communication, civilisation will be spread in the interior of the Colony where it has yet hardly reached; the resources of the country will be increased by the introduction of new branches of trade, and the commercial crises attendant on the ever-recurring disturbances of the peace of the interior, and the depression of the present single staple of trade with Europe, will be avoided; and finally, by the clearing away of the forests (the nursing mothers of miasma) and the exposure of the moist soil to the influence of the sun, the sanitary condition of the Colony will be improved. But even when the Government has fulfilled its duty to the utmost, and provided the necessary facilities for the development of agriculture, it is on themselves and on their own efforts that the inhabitants of the Colony must finally depend for success. It is for them to decide whether they will enter into the wide fields lying within their reach, or sink into the position of hewers of wood and drawers of water to the more energetic race that shall seize the opportunity. The Government can but sow the seed, the crop must be raised and harvested by the people. Those who have received the benefits of education must take the lead and set an example of industry and enterprise to their less enlightened countrymen. The effort will lead to wealth, though no doubt in some cases success will be dashed with failure, but undaunted by that they must push on until perfect success is reached. They must set before themselves the ideal of raising their country and their countrymen. For long enough has the country remained in the old groove, content with things as they are; it is time that efforts were made to rise to greater things. "It "appears to be as true in regard to the life of a nation as of an "individual, that in order to rise, morally and intellectually, it "must be possessed of some great idea, in the pursuit of which its "best powers must be appealed to and perseveringly exercised. "As a man will never become worthy of his manhood who lives "on from day to day, merely taking what comes, and neither "endeavouring to raise his conceptions of what he might be, nor "to live up to such notions as he has, so neither can a nation "keep up its nationality which has no aims and no ideal." Let this be the general aim, to raise the country and its position

Necessity for self-exertion by natives.

among men by developing its resources to the highest pitch. A beginning once earnestly made, perseverance and courage will alone be required to ensure success. Every effort will be a step towards the goal, and an incentive to further effort until the time shall be reached when the wild tangled forests and jungles shall be replaced by cultivated fields, "when the wilderness and the "desolate place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and "bloom as the rose."

W. F. HUTCHISON,
Secretary.

Approved and adopted, Accra, 1889.

J. DESMOND MCCARTHY, M.D.,
President.

} Members.

pproved and adopted, Cape Coast, 31st December 1889.

W. F. HUTCHISON,
Vice-President.

J. P. BROWN,
W. E. PIETERSON, } Members.

SCHE-

EXPORTS of AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Articles.	1882.		1883.		1884.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bamboo canes - -	10 bales.	1 10 0	—	—	—	—
Barwood - - -	—	7 0 0	—	—	T. C. 4 8	22 4 6
Bees-wax - - -	2 barrels.	14 0 0	13 cases.	64 2 6	C. Q. L. 1 2 15	12 15 0
Bark - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beans - - -	—	—	1 package	5 0 0	—	—
Calabar beans - -	C. Q. L. 51 0 24	154 11 0	C. Q. L. 24 3 5	68 6 5	C. Q. L. 6 0 6	10 1 0
Calabashes - - -	—	—	9 packages	12 0 0	—	—
Camwood - - -	T. C. Q. L. 176 9 0 16	1,651 18 8	T. C. Q. L. 191 12 3 18	1,680 15 11	T. C. Q. L. 62 10 0 2	354 7 3
Cocoa - - - -	—	—	—	—	121 lbs.	6 1 0
Cocoa-nuts - - -	—	—	1,394	9 7 6	—	—
Coffee - - - -	—	—	1 case	11 10 0	C. Q. L. 2 1 14	8 11 6
Coprah - - -	T. C. Q. L. 32 7 0 9	292 4 0	T. C. Q. L. 114 7 1 9	1,277 13 11	T. C. Q. L. 259 15 0 17	1,604 7 0
Cotton - - -	—	—	26 6 2 0	1,307 13 1	9 6 2 8	297 1 2
Drugs, unspecified - -	—	—	—	—	2 packages	3 0 0
Fibre - - - -	T. C. Q. L. 5 13 0 12	114 9 2	897 lbs.	5 5 0	—	—
Ginger - - -	0 9 0 0	42 13 6?	—	—	T. C. Q. L. 0 5 1 12	5 0 0
Ground-nuts - -	1 0 0 0	13 13 3	T. C. Q. L. 888 1 2 7	1,923 15 3	216 5 3 25	2,077 12 6
Guinea grains - -	47 12 1 10	5,655 13 3?	82 7 3 7	1,645 0 8	68 9 1 27	1,466 19 4
Gum copal - - -	204 1 2 18	7,860 15 6	19 12 1 23	539 15 3	99 14 2 9	902 18 3
Kola nuts - - -	15 4 0 10	123 16 6	—	15 0 0	448 packages	632 2 0
*Mahogany nuts - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maize - - -	2 cwt.	4 10 0	T. C. Q. L. 43 19 2 26	123 6 6	100 packages	75 5 9
*Indigo - - -	—	—	1 case	1 19 8	—	—
Palm-kernels - -	T. C. Q. L. 8,151 10 2 15	50,316 15 5	T. C. Q. L. 7,428 10 2 18	61,542 19 3	8,930 tons	76,530 0 0
Palm-oil - gallons	2,921,022	178,508 9 2	2,655,014	208,721 4 8	3,633,533	282,398 0 0
Pepper (bird's-eye) -	190 lbs.	2 7 3	—	—	—	—
Rubber - - -	70 lbs.	0 12 6	T. C. Q. L. 25 17 0 9	2,371 12 0	T. C. Q. L. 99 18 2 11	13,619 17 7
Seeds, bamboo - -	T. C. Q. L. 9 16 3 26	54 10 0	—	—	—	—
„ castor-oil - -	26 lbs.	1 2 0	—	—	1 cwt.	0 6 9

DULE A.

from the GOLD COAST COLONY, 1882–1889.

1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity,	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 lbs.	0 15 3	—	—	416 lbs.	6 13 0	—	—
—	—	250 lbs.	12 0 0	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 lbs.	0 1 6	—	—	C. Q. L. 55 3 9	111 13 0	C. Q. L. 27 3 19	56 13 4
3 packages	2 14 4	48 packages	13 19 0	—	—	—	—
T. C. Q. L. 39 5 3 0	283 19 3	T. C. Q. L. 49 3 0 4	590 13 3	T. C. Q. L. 48 19 1 2	576 2 6	T. C. Q. L. 12 8 1 27	193 3 10
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	26,725	73 7 0	127,142	240 8 3
C. Q. L. 22 2 6	63 9 4	C. Q. L. 46 3 0	75 3 6	C. Q. L. 25 3 13	85 9 0	C. Q. L. 33 3 17	115 14 3
T. C. Q. L 68 17 3 7	730 0 0	65 tons.	696 11 2	T. C. 199 14	1,366 14 4	T. C. Q. L. 162 16 2 0	1,087 5 6
0 16 1 7	133 13 5	—	—	—	—	6 1 3 14	196 11 6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
130 lbs.	2 0 0	212 lbs.	9 0 0	109 lbs.	2 14 6	—	—
T. C. Q. L. 0 14 1 23	13 14 5	T. C. Q. L. 0 13 1 0	20 4 0	T. C. Q. L. 0 8 2 12	12 12 3	T. C. Q. L. 0 23 3 16	20 5 10
16 2 0 4	128 4 9	4 10 1 9	31 18 9	10 8 2 24	91 17 5	0 10 1 14	6 17 9
65 5 2 14	1,092 14 6	105 5 1 9	1,429 17 11	231 6 3 18	670 0 0	68 2 0 21	1,108 17 7
41 10 2 14	1,472 14 7	25 17 0 0	918 5 6	33 1 1 17	1,109 0 4	42 16 1 2	1,310 9 10
68 packages	429 8 4	114 packages	758 0 6	206 packages	1,009 16 6	261 packages	1,549 5 2
5 lbs.	1 5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
17 packages	30 18 9	C. Q. L. 10 3 16	16 10 0	745 packages	141 12 0	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1 package	12 0 0
T. C. Q. L. 4,991 9 0 1	52,823 13 9	T. C. Q. L. 9,426 14 0 0	47,829 15 11	T. C. Q. L. 8,022 14 2 0	41,613 2 8	T. C. Q. L. 13,330 14 2 0	68,525 0 2
4,071,250	284,391 6 4	3,163,206	155,978 15 3	3,076,634	143,395 4 8	3,410,788	150,361 3 11
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T. C. Q. L. 41 16 3 10	30,234 15 1	T. C. Q. L. 691 11 1 21	69,911 2 8	T. C. Q. L. 583 2 3 24	62,430 1 8	T. C. Q. L. 392 2 2 27	38,048 8 9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SCHE-

Exports of Agricultural Produce from

Articles.	1882.		1883.		1884.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.	T. C. Q. L.	£ s. d.	T. C. Q. L.	£ s. d.
Seeds, cotton - -	—	—	22 2 0 23	52 0 0	17 12 1 2	55 9 0
„ croton - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ unspecified - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
	C. Q. L.		C. Q. L.		C. Q. L.	
Shea butter - -	8 1 20	16 15 0	5 1 10	15 5 0	39 3 10	33 12 6
Shallots - - -	—	—	13 0 0	37 9 3	—	—
Timber, odoom - -	2 planks.	0 6 0	—	—	—	—
„ ebony - -	—	—	837 lbs.	5 2 0	—	—
„ teak - -	—	—	—	—	13 planks	5 13 0
„ unspecified -	—	—	17 pcs.	7 13 0	958 ft.	15 19 4
Tiger-nuts - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables - - -	—	—	10 packages	6 3 0	18 packages	31 1 3
Total - -	—	244,837 12 2	—	281,449 19 10	—	380,168 5 8

DULE A.—*cont.*

the Gold Coast Colony, 1882–1889—*cont.*

1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 packages	5 7 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1 package	2 0 0	49 packages	26 13 0	—	—
14 packages	134 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	48 cwt.	6 0 0	1 ton.	6 0 0	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	360 ft.	3 12 0	240 ft.	4 0 0	476 ft.	17 15 0
2 packages	6 16 3	13 packages	30 10 0	3 packages	4 1 0	—	—
21 packages	31 19 1	1,695 pkgs.	135 17 9	unspecified	48 8 0	—	—
—	372,013 11 5	—	278,469 17 2	—	252,785 2 10	—	262,850 0 8

SCHEDULE B.

Table showing (a) *quantity of Palm-oil exported;* (b) *quantity of Palm-kernels produced;* (c) *quantity of Palm-kernels exported;* (d) *quantity of Palm-kernels unutilized;* (e) *value of same,* 1884 *to* 1888.

Date.	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	
1884 -	12,112	30,280	8,930	21,350	106,750	This table is based on the estimate of 300 gallons palm-oil = 1 ton, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons palm-kernels per ton of oil (*see* report, pp. 18 and 19).
1885 -	13,571	33,927	4,991	28,936	144,680	
1886 -	10,544	26,360	9,426	16,934	84,670	
1887 -	10,255	25,637	8,022	17,615	88,075	
1888 -	11,369	28,422	13,330	15,092	75,460	
Total -	—	—	—	99,927	499,635	

APPENDIX.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, July 1, 1890.

MY LORD,

ON the 8th of September 1887 Colonel White, who, at the time, was administering the Government of the Colony, appointed a Commission composed of six gentlemen—Dr. McCarthy, the Chief Medical Officer, being President, and Mr. William Francis Hutchison, of Cape Coast, Vice-President—to be Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into the best means, and recommending such steps as they might think would be most practicable to promote economic agriculture in this Colony. The Committee has been employed for about two and a half years collecting information for the purpose of their inquiry, and the report was transmitted to me by Dr. Easmon who had succeeded Dr. McCarthy as President of the Board, and was received by me at Aburi on the 27th of March last.

2. I regret, my Lord, that I have not been able to transmit this interesting and valuable Report at an earlier time to your Lordship, and even now I am only able to forward it with a few remarks, as since its receipt I have not been able to read it a

second time, owing partly to great pressure of work and also to my recent unfortunate illness. I think it best, however, to send on the Report at once with a few general remarks, and to request that your Lordship will be so good as to cause it to be printed.

3. I think 300 copies of the document should be printed, and possibly your Lordship would be pleased to cause to be prefixed to it this Despatch and that which I shall follow it up with as soon as practicable, when I will deal at some length with various matters in the Report which appear to me to possess interest, not only for the people in the Colony, but for others abroad who may take an interest in this portion of West Africa.

4. The Report presents a description of the geographical features of the Colony, the extent of country under cultivation, the methods of agriculture adopted by the natives; the system of land tenure, and some account of the practice and cost of "native customs" and the injurious consequences resulting from their performance; a description of the agricultural products of the country, imported and indigenous; and suggestions for improvements in the direction of the advancement of the agricultural interests of the Colony.

5. Special attention is drawn to the limited extent of the country under cultivation as compared with its immense area, and the great waste of natural products of commercial value, chiefly from the indolence of the people on the one hand, and the bad state of roads on the other.

6. The demoralising effect of the native funeral "customs" is graphically detailed. The light of education, which is gradually but steadily diffusing its rays over the Colony, is, however, the only remedy for this evil. But it is a question for consideration whether it will not be advisable for the Legislature presently to consider measures for the protection of the poorer classes from the exorbitant and extravagant impositions of money-lenders.

7. The Report gives a fairly accurate description of the agricultural products of the Colony; two important subjects are referred to in it, roads and deforestation, the former of which has been under the consideration of the Government, as your Lordship is aware. But time is necessary to mature and put forward schemes of improvement in a young Colony so peculiarly situated as this is, and which is only 16 years old. For some years past the native Chiefs, through whose towns the main roads to the interior pass, have been subsidised by the Government to keep the roads clean. This plan has not been found to act as satisfactorily as was anticipated, however, owing to the want of supervision. To meet this difficulty a new appointment has been created, which, it is hoped, will prove remedial in the regard stated. In the meantime however, it must be remembered that the building of bridges, making of roads, laying down of lines of railway, extension of telegraph communication, and bringing pure water into the large towns, and providing a forestry staff, and building houses for public schools, &c. cannot be carried out without a considerable

GOLD COAST.

outlay of money, which, as it cannot be provided from the revenue of the Colony, will have to be raised by loan on its credit, if these public works are to be undertaken.

8. The advisability of the enactment of legislative measures for the prevention of deforestation of the country has not been lost sight of, but for various reasons it has not been considered prudent to press the question for the present.

9. With reference to the suggestion for the improvement of certain agricultural products by the introduction of improved varieties of plants, it may be remarked that it was for this purpose, among others, that the botanical station at Aburi was started, and I have imported large quantities of coffee, cocoa, corn, cotton, and other seeds of valuable economic plants and trees, large portions of which have been planted at Aburi, and the surplus will be distributed to persons in the Colony who take an interest in the propagation of the seeds mentioned.

10. As already stated, I will do myself the honour shortly of again addressing your Lordship on the subject of the Report now transmitted.

11. I annex to this Despatch a copy (in duplicate) of the Commission issued by Colonel White for the appointment of the Commission on Agriculture in order to its being prefixed to the Report now forwarded when the latter is printed.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in Appendix.

No. 9a. 1887.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ACCRA, GOLD COAST, WESTERN AFRICA.

Friday, September 30th, 1887.

By His Excellency Frederick Benjamin Price White, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Her Majesty's 1st West Indian Regiment, Colonel Commanding the Land Forces on the West Coast of Africa, Administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony.

GREETING,

WHEREAS at a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast Colony held on the 16th May last it was deemed advisable to appoint a Commission to inquire into the best means of promoting economic agriculture in this Colony;

Know ye that I, the Administrator of the said Colony, relying on your integrity, loyalty, industry, and ability, have constituted and

appointed you, and by these presents do appoint you, the said James Desmond McCarthy, Christian Henry Eyles, Thomas Birch Freeman (senior), William Francis Hutchison, Joseph Peter Brown, and William Edward Pieterson, to be Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into the best means, and recommending such steps as you think may be most practicable, to promote economic agriculture in this Colony, of examining witnesses and of reporting to the Officer Administering the Government of the said Colony thereon: And further I do hereby constitute and appoint you, the said James Desmond McCarthy, to be President, and you, the said William Francis Hutchison, to be Vice-President, of this Commission, and I do by these presents order that this Commission shall continue in full force and virtue until otherwise determined, and that you, the said James Desmond McCarthy, President, or you, the said William Francis Hutchison, Vice-President, of the said Commission, with any one or more of the other members thereof, shall and from time to time and at any place or places within the said Colony proceed in the execution thereof.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Gold Coast Colony at Government House, Victoriaborg, in the said Colony, this Eighth day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

By His Excellency's Command,

PERCIVAL HUGHES,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
60	Natal	1888
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888-9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888-9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	,,
106	British Guiana	,,
107	Barbados	,,
108	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
109	Western Australia	,,

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

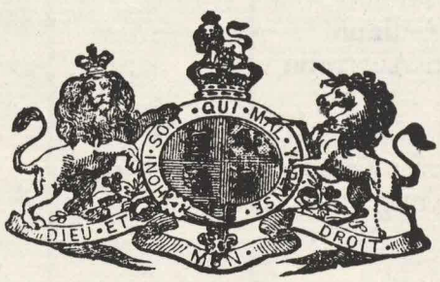
No. 91.

GRENADA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 64.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.-21.]

The following among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
44	British Bechuanaland	1887
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887-8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,

No. 91.

GRENADA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 64.]

Sir W. HELY-HUTCHINSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Grenada, March 29, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Colonial Secretary's report on the Blue Book for 1889.

2. As soon as the Blue Book has been printed copies shall be forwarded to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada,
March 27, 1890.

SIR,

THE printing of the Blue Book itself for 1889 is not yet completed, but in accordance with your Excellency's request I have prepared, and now have the honour to submit, my report upon the returns with which I have been furnished.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The only change under this head in 1889 was in the reduction of the *ad valorem* duty on imports from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent.

The collection of export duties was again suspended this year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue actually received in 1889 was 50,441*l.*, whilst the revenue estimated to be received was 49,264*l.*, showing an excess of 1,177*l.*

The excess is due chiefly to the receipts from rum duty, the result of an increased local manufacture and trade in rum, consequent on the changes made in 1888 in reducing the excise duty and increasing the import duty on rum. The total receipts for

the year would have presented a still more favourable appearance as compared with the estimate had it not been that, through a clerical error when the estimates were being prepared, the estimated revenues from licenses under Ordinance 12 of 1884, were put down at about three times more than could reasonably have been expected.

The expenditure actually incurred in 1889 was 51,086*l.* as compared with an estimate of 48,072*l.*, showing an excess of 3,014*l.*

The principal items of excess in actual over estimated expenditure are "repairs and maintenance of roads and bridges," "public bye-ways," and "repairs and maintenance of public buildings." As regards the first item, floods on the western coast involved extra expenditure. As regards the second, the "Roads Ordinance, 1889," authorising expenditure on public bye-ways, came into force after the estimates were passed; and as regards the third, the ordinary expenditure for repairs and maintenance was very heavy in 1889, and several repairs begun in 1888 were continued in the early part of the year.

The following table compares the revenue received in 1889 with that received in 1888:—

Head of Revenue.	1889.	1888.	Increase in 1889.	Decrease in 1889.
	£	£	£	£
Customs - - - -	24,643	27,138	—	2,495
Excise - - - -	8,833	7,775	1,058	—
Rates and taxes - - -	4,786	4,757	29	—
Licenses - - - -	4,620	4,839	—	219
Stamps - - - -	3,049	3,148	—	99
Fines and forfeitures - -	492	761	—	269
Rents - - - -	221	192	39	—
Postage - - - -	873	712	161	—
Sales - - - -	553	400	153	—
Interest - - - -	427	239	188	—
Reimbursements in aid - -	1,801	1,346	455	—
Refunds - - - -	50	45	5	—
Miscellaneous - - -	84	26	58	—
Totals - -	50,442	51,378	2,146	3,082
	—	50,442	—	2,146
Decrease in 1889 - -	—	936	—	936

Under Customs the decrease was principally under import duties, owing to the reduction of the *ad valorem* duty from 10 to 7½ per cent. The increase under Excise is due to the improved system of collection and to increased trade.

The following table compares the expenditure in 1889 with the expenditure in 1888:—

Head of Expenditure.	1889.	1888.	Increase in 1889.	Decrease in 1889.
	£	£	£	£
Governor's Department - -	1,979	1,985	—	6
Colonial Secretary's Department -	1,562	1,548	14	—
Treasury Department - - -	3,355	3,474	—	119
Audit Department - - -	433	450	—	17
Post Office - - - -	1,190	1,634	—	444
Public Works - - - -	1,697	1,527	170	—
Botanic Gardens - - -	311	397	—	86
Savings bank - - - -	307	273	34	—
Judicial - - - -	4,315	3,955	360	—
Ecclesiastical - - - -	524	537	—	13
Medical - - - -	2,876	2,951	—	75
Hospitals - - - -	3,943	4,408	—	465
Police - - - - -	4,137	3,920	217	—
Prisons - - - -	1,201	1,214	—	13
Education - - - -	4,281	4,013	268	—
Pensions - - - -	690	842	—	152
Rents - - - - -	350	364	—	14
Subsidies and grants - - -	2,639	1,635	1,004	—
Roads and bridges - - -	7,931	5,002	2,929	—
Works and buildings - - -	2,658	2,852	—	194
Interest of sinking fund - -	2,000	1,500	500	—
Drawbacks and refunds - -	154	110	44	—
Charitable allowances - - -	380	387	—	7
Miscellaneous - - - -	2,173	2,446	—	273
Totals - -	51,086	47,424	5,540	1,878
	47,424	—	1,878	—
Net increase in 1889 - -	3,662	—	3,662	—

GRENADA.

The decrease under "Post Office" is due to the fact that two annual contributions to the Postal Union were paid in 1888. The increase under "Judicial" is the result of the holding of an extra session of the Court of Appeal. The granting of a subsidy at the end of 1888 for coastal steam communication, increased expenditure under the Roads Ordinance, 1889, and a larger issue of debentures under the Public Works Loan Ordinance Account for the increases under "Subsidies and Grants," "Roads and Bridges," and "Interest and Sinking Fund" respectively.

Financial Position.

The following statement shows the financial position of the Colony on the 31st December 1889:—

Balance Sheet of the Accounts of the Colony of Grenada on 31st December 1889.

Dr. *Cr.*

1889.		£	s.	d.	1889.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Cash Account	42	1	9	Dec. 31	By Public Works Loan Works Account	7,863	11	8
	Colonial Bank, Deposit Account	11,943	19	4		Savings Bank Account	6,284	19	2
	Colonial Bank, Current Account	1,827	19	0		Immigration Fund Account	1,691	5	5
	London and Westminster Bank Account	8,338	3	11		Sinking Fund, Public Works Loan	2,155	9	2
	South Australia 4 per cent. Government Inscribed Stock (Nominal 3,804*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*)	4,000	0	0		Fire Insurance Fund	1,254	1	5
	Parochial Boards Loan Works Advances Account	2,357	3	8		Post Office Account	635	0	7
	Authorised Advances Account	456	11	4		Governor-in-Chief's Office Fund	82	3	4
	Telephone Fund Account	153	14	8		Crown Agents Current Account	151	8	10
	Loans to Parochial Boards from General Revenue	993	15	5		Drafts and Bills Account	1,000	0	0
	Remittances in Transit Account	736	9	4		Arrears of Revenue Account	546	3	2
	Parochial Boards Byeways Contribution Arrears	440	15	8		Sundry Debenture Holders	44,475	0	0
	Parochial Boards Interest on Loans Arrears	105	7	6		John McPhail Loan Account	1,000	0	0
	Public Works Loan Account	44,475	0	0			67,139	2	6
	St. George's Water Supply Loan Account	1,000	0	0		Surplus and Deficit Account	9,724	19	5
	Total	£76,864	2	2		Total	£76,864	2	2

Savings Bank.

The following is the balance sheet of the Savings Bank of Grenada at 31st December 1889:—

Balance Sheet of the Savings Bank of Grenada on 31st December 1889.

Dr. *Cr.*

1889.		£	s.	d.	1889.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31	To Treasury Deposit Account	6,284	19	2	Dec. 31	By St. George's Bank Depositors Account	6,003	4	1
	Carriacou Bank, Reserve Fund	10	0	0		Grenville do. do.	67	8	0
						Sauteurs do. do.	53	4	9
						Gouyave do. do.	80	1	10
						Carriacou do. do.	91	0	6
	Total	£6,294	19	2		Total	£6,294	19	2

Public Debt.

On the 31st December 1889 the public debt of the Colony was 44,475*l.*, representing the amount of debentures issued under the Public Works Loans Ordinance, 1885. The amount of sinking fund at the same date was 2,155*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, leaving the net indebtedness at 42,319*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Public Works and Roads.

The Director of Public Works gives the following summary of Public Works, &c. executed during the year 1889:—

Colony Hospital.—The old wooden staircases to the upper floor were removed, and a covered double outside staircase erected in masonry with two bath-rooms in the spandrels.

The lower wards were ceiled throughout, and extensive repairs and painting executed.

Registrar's Office.—The walls of the Registrar's office were raised and the roof renewed. The wooden staircase was removed and a new masonry staircase erected outside.

Stables were built, and the old stable and keeper's room were converted into a police guard-room and lock-up.

Lunatic Asylum.—Two of the old casemates were converted into four single rooms, and a boiler range was built in the kitchen.

Post Office.—A strong room was built.

Court House, St. Patrick's.—The ground floor, which consisted of three police cells and broad verandahs, was walled in all round and converted into a police station.

Richmond Hill Prison.—The roofs of the out-offices were renewed, a bakery oven built, stone breaking cells erected, and the provision store floored with concrete and fitted with shelves.

St. John's Hospital.—The buildings were thoroughly repaired and painted.

St. Andrew's Hospital.—A new fence was erected around the ground.

Court House, Carriacou.—The roof was re-shingled and general repairs executed.

Buoys and Beacons.—A buoy was moored on the 18 feet patch west of Fort George and beacons fixed to mark the shoals at the entrance of the Carenage.

Petroleum Warehouse.—The building was lengthened.

Public Works Office.—The shops and stables were removed from "the Observatory" to the Old Royal Mail Coal Yard, and part of the library building converted into offices and stores.

GRENADA.

Extension of Warehouse No. 1.—The warehouse was extended by an addition 70 feet in length.

York House.—The grounds were enclosed by a wall along Deponthieu and St. John's Streets.

Happy Hill School-house.—A school-house with accommodation for 70 children was erected at Happy Hill on the St. John's Road.

Waterworks.

St. Paul's and Richmond Hill Water Supply. — These works were commenced in March and water was turned into the St. George's Reservoir at Observatory in October.

The works consisted of a dam reservoir and three filter beds at "Les Avocats," a reservoir at Fort Frederick formed by the conversion of two large casemates, a reservoir at Government House, and about six miles of mains.

Roads.

Bridge over St. Mark's River. — A bridge of four spans of 15 feet was erected over St. Mark's River.

The bridge was nearly completed in September, when an extraordinary flood destroyed the southern abutment and carried away one of the spans. A 30 feet span was ordered to replace it.

St. John's Road.—The widening of the road at Point Eloi by cutting the cliff was commenced, and dangerous overhanging rocks at La Poterie were removed.

Belmont Causeway.—A causeway was built across the River Antoine near Belmont.

Sauteurs-Tivoli Road.—The metalling of this road was commenced.

Belvidere Road.—The metalling of the second section of this road from Mount Felix to Fond Péché, three miles in length, was completed and 12 culverts, four causeways, and four bridges were built.

St. David's Road.—One mile of this road was formed and metalled and four culverts and a bridge were built.

Storm Damages.—The banks of the St. Mark's and Gouyave rivers, which burst in the storm of the 13th September, have been strengthened and dykes have been built to prevent the rivers from again flooding the towns. Most of the damage to roads has been made good.

Legislation.

The following 18 Ordinances came into operation during the year:—

No. 1. The Parochial Boards Ordinance, 1889.

No. 2. The Roads Ordinance, 1889.

No. 3. The Saint Paul and Richmond Hill Districts Water Supply Ordinance, 1889.
No. 4. The Parochial Boards Amending Ordinance, 1889.
No. 5. The Hospital Board Ordinance, 1889.
No. 6. The Release of Prisoners Ordinance, 1889.
No. 7. The Colony Hospital Estate Ordinance, 1889.
No. 8. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1888.
No. 9. The Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1889.
No. 10. The Wrecks Ordinance, 1889.
No. 11. The Maintenance Ordinance, 1889.
No. 12. The Magistrates Clerks Ordinance, 1889.
No. 13. The Botanical Garden Ordinance, 1889.
No. 14. The Expenses of Trials under Foreign Jurisdiction Acts Ordinance of 1889.
No. 15. The Fees in Escheat Cases Amendment Ordinance, 1889.
No. 16. The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1889.
No. 17. The purchase of Cocoa and Nutmegs Ordinance, 1889.
No. 18. The Medical Ordinance, 1889.

The Parochial Boards Ordinance, 1889, consolidated Ordinance 11 of 1886, the "Parochial Boards and the Regulation of Towns Ordinance," and the amending Ordinance 4 of 1887. It reduced the number of members of Boards (except in the case of St. Andrew's) by one third, relieved the Boards of the care and control of public bye-ways, and gave them the entire control of roads which by Ordinance 2 of 1889 are defined as parish bye-ways; gave them power to augment their revenues for road purposes in certain directions, and amplified and placed upon a more satisfactory and practical basis the borrowing powers of the Boards, and made special provisions for repayment of loans.

Under the Roads Ordinance, 1889, the roads of the Colony are classified into (*a*) public highways, (*b*) public bye-ways, (*c*) parish bye-ways, the first being kept in repair from public funds; the second in equal proportions from public and parochial funds; and the third from parochial funds. The Ordinance also divided the Island into two road districts, and constituted a Road Board for each district to have charge of all the public highways and public bye-ways in the district.

The Hospital Board Ordinance, 1889, authorised the Governor to appoint a Board of Visitors for the Colony Hospital.

By the law as it existed previous to the passing of Ordinance No. 11, the Maintenance Ordinance, 1889, a magistrate possesed no authority to make or enforce an order on a husband who had deserted his wife and children, requiring him to support and maintain them. A term of imprisonment only could be inflicted. This Ordinance remedies this defect, and applies not only to husbands, but to wives with separate property who may desert their husbands and children and allow them to become destitute.

GRENADA.

The Medical Districts Ordinance, 1889, gave the Governor in Executive Council power to divide the Island into medical districts, and at any time to alter and re-arrange the number and boundaries of such districts, the chief object of the Ordinance having been to create an additional district. It also provided that it should be the duty of the district medical officers to attend to all cases of sudden illness within their districts without demanding prepayment of the fee to which they may subsequently be proved to be entitled.

Councils.

In the Executive Council there were no permanent changes during the year.

In the Legislative Council His Excellency the Honourable Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson succeeded His Excellency Sir Walter Sendall as president; and the Honourable F. Gurney was appointed an unofficial member in the place of Mr. F. Batt, who resigned; Dr. J. F. McLeod, Mr. David Webster, and Mr H. Astley Berkeley were appointed to act as unofficial members fill temporary vacancies that occurred during the year.

Civil Establishments.

During the temporary absences of the Governor the administration of the Government was carried on by Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, Administrator of St. Vincent, from the 1st to the 7th January, by Mr. Edward Laborde, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Lucia, from the 11th January to the 26th March, and by Mr. F. M. Chadwick, treasurer of Grenada, from the 7th to the 10th January, from 27th March to 6th April, from 12th to the 16th May, from 24th June to 12th July, from 25th to 26th November and again from 7th to 13th December.

His Excellency Sir Walter J. Sendall, K.C.M.G., having been appointed Governor of Barbados, left this Colony on the 25th November and was succeeded by his Excellency the Honourable Sir Walter F. Hely-Hutchinson, K.C.M.G., who arrived in Grenada on the 28th November. Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G., on whom the administration of the general government devolved in the absence of the Governor, arrived in Grenada on the 26th November, and was sworn in as Administrator-in-Chief of the Windward Islands.

Captain Maling, the Colonial Secretary, did not return to the Colony, but continued on leave of absence until the 26th June; he was then appointed Administrator of St. Vincent; the duties of the Colonial Secretary were discharged by Mr. F. M. Chadwick from the 6th to the 10th January, by Mr. Edward Laborde, C.M.G., from 11th January to the 25th March, by Mr. Edward Drayton, registrar, from 26th March to 20th August, and again by Mr. F. M. Chadwick from the 21st August to the end of the year; during the period from 26th August to the end of the year Mr. Edward Drayton acted as treasurer.

Mr. H. Lighton Robinson, who was appointed by the Secretary of State Police Magistrate and Coroner of the Southern District, vice Mr. H. J. Lee Evans, who had been appointed Judge of the Petty Debt Court, Barbados, arrived in the Colony on the 16th May.

During the absence on leave of Mr. S. E. Roche, Police Magistrate of the Northern District, from 25th of May to the 25th November, his duties were performed by Dr. N. S. Durrant, Medical Officer of Carriacou.

Mr. J. Harbin, chief clerk to the Registrar, continued to discharge the duties of the Registrar throughout the year.

Mr. John Semper, the auditor, obtained leave of absence on the 1st June; owing to the failure of his eyesight he retired from the public service on a pension on the 1st September. Mr. C. H. Collymore, chief clerk to the Colonial Secretary, acted as auditor from the 1st of June to the close of the year. Mr. H. H. Mitchell, chief clerk in the Treasury at St. Lucia, acted as Mr. Collymore's *locum tenens.*

Captain R. Jukes Hughes, provisional Protector of Immigrants, having been appointed Chief of Police at St. Lucia, left Grenada on 7th December. Mr. R. S. Wright, Chief of Police, discharged the duties of Protector of Immigrants from that date to the end of the year.

Securities of Public Officers.

At the annual inspection of the securities of public officers required to enter into bond for fidelity in office, held on the 17th of March, the bonds were found to be in proper form, and the sureties thereto were persons good and sufficient for the amounts for which they were bound.

Pensions.

The pension list was reduced by the sum of 366*l.* per annum in consequence of the death of a pensioner, Mr. S. Mitchell, late Colonial Secretary.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st of December 1888 was 49,337. The natural increase during 1889, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 1,056, so that the population on the 31st December 1889 may be estimated at 50,393.

1889.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Births - - -	1,155	1,143	2,298
Deaths - - -	624	618	1,242
Excess in births - -	531	525	1,056

GRENADA.

East Indian Immigration.

No immigrants were introduced during the year. The indentures of those who were introduced in the "Poonah" in 1885 expired on the 13th January 1890, so that at the time of writing there are no indentured immigrants in the Colony.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that no murders occurred during the year amongst the Indian population, which may be estimated to amount to about 2,100 souls.

The following is a statement of the Immigration Fund on the 31st December 1889:—

Balance Sheet of the Immigration Fund of Grenada at 31st December 1889.

Dr. *Cr.*

1889.		£	s.	d.	1889.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	To Treasury Deposit Account - -	1,691	5	5	Dec. 31.	By Arrears of Revenue Account - -	53	17	2
	Loan to St. George's Parochial Board -	1,430	19	3		Surplus and Deficit Account - -	3,168	1	4
	Interest on Loans Arrears Account - - -	53	17	2					
	Emigration Agent, Calcutta - - -	45	16	8					
	Total - -	£3,221	18	6		Total - -	£3,221	18	6

Education.

Twenty-nine primary schools were in operation at the close of the year 1889, of which eight were Government schools, seven were Anglican, nine were Roman Catholic, and five were Wesleyan. In this respect there was no change from the condition of things which existed in the previous year. There was, however, a satisfactory increase in the number on the roll, the number in average attendance, and the amount received in school fees in 1889 as compared with the year 1888. The figures are as follows:—

Number on roll in 1888 - - -	4,440
„ „ 1889 - - -	4,783
Number in average attendance in 1888 -	2,287
„ „ 1889 -	2,519
	£
Schools fees paid in 1888 - - -	603
„ „ 1889 - - -	635

As regards secondary education it is satisfactory to be able to record that whilst the average attendance at the St. George's Grammar School in 1888 was 25, it had risen to 43 in 1889, and that the school fees paid in 1889 were 165*l.* as compared with 125*l.* in 1888. The results of the last examination of the school were most satisfactory, and there has been a marked improvement in the school both as regards numbers, as already shown, and as regards standard of education.

In addition to the subsidy of 250*l.* a year, and the result grant of 5*l.* per annum for every pupil who obtains more than 50 per

cent. marks at the annual examination, the Government undertook in 1888 to grant scholarships of 5*l.* a year each, tenable for two years, to the extent of 25*l.* a year, for pupils going to the grammar school from primary schools. One such scholarship was awarded in 1888, and five were awarded in 1889.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports in 1889 was 174,081*l.* as compared with 162,437*l.* in 1888, showing an increase of 11,644*l.*

The following table shows the distribution of the imports:—

	1889.	1888.
	Pts.	Pts.
From United Kingdom - - -	87,762	82,597
From British Colonies - - -	45,733	52,522
From Foreign Countries - - -	40,586	27,318
	174,081	162,437

The total value of the exports in 1889 was 195,595*l.* as compared with 229,263*l.* in 1888, showing a decrease of 33,668*l.*

The exports were distributed as follows:—

	1889.	1888.
	£	£
To the United Kingdom - - -	172,912	202,684
To British Colonies - - - -	7,515	9,182
To Foreign Countries - - -	15,168	17,397
	195,595	229,263

Of the total exports, 194,889*l.* represented the value of the produce and manufacture of the Colony exported, and 706*l.* that of the British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures exported.

166,178*l.* represented the value of cocoa exported, 10,220*l.* the value of spices exported, and 2,254*l.* the value of sugar exported as compared with 199,902*l.*, 9,429*l.*, and 697*l.* respectively in 1888.

GRENADA.

Shipping.

The following table compares the number of vessels entered in 1889 with the number entered in 1888 :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1889 - - -	123	187,976	379	10,254
1888 - - -	110	179,706	415	12,868
Increase - -	13	8,270	—	—
Decrease - -	—	—	36	2,614

Of the 123 steamers which entered in 1889, 61 arrived from the United Kingdom, 24 from the United States, 34 from the British West Indies, and two from the Danish West Indies. Of the 379 sailing vessels which entered in 1889, three arrived from the United Kingdom, seven from the United States, 328 from the British West Indies, 10 from the Dutch West Indies, 17 from the French West Indies, and 10 from Venezuela.

The following table compares the number of vessels cleared in 1889 with the number cleared in 1888 :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1889 - - -	80	130,043	369	9,744
1888 - - -	74	124,443	389	12,619
Increase - -	6	5,600	—	—
Decrease - -	—	—	20	2,875

Of the 80 steamers which cleared in 1889, 55 departed for the United Kingdom, 11 for the United States, 13 for the British West Indies, and one for the Danish West Indies.

Of the 389 sailing vessels which cleared in 1889, one departed for the United Kingdom, three for the United States, 336 for the British West Indies, 12 for the French West Indies, seven for the Dutch West Indies, one for the Danish West Indies, two for San Domingo, and seven for Venezuela.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The following is a statement of the chief prison statistics for the years 1888 and 1889 :—

Year.	No. of Prisoners committed—	For Debt.	For safe Custody.	For penal Imprisonment.	No. of those committed who have been previously convicted.	Daily Average in Prison.	Admissions to Hospitals.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Deaths.	Cost of Prisons.	Value of Work done by Prisoners.
										£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888 - -	203	3	47	153	56	55·75	15	2·98	1	1,327 18 3	1,255 16 3
1889 - -	300	3	53	244	89	64·21	18	3·51	2	1,231 1 11	1,302 13 5

It will be observed from the above figures that the value of the work done by the prisoners exceeded the cost of the prisons, so that the prisons are now self supporting.

There are only two prisons in the Colony, the prison at Richmond Hill, used for male prisoners, and the old common gaol in the town of St. George's, used for female prisoners.

Criminal Statistics.

The following table shows the number of offences reported to the police, of apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in both Inferior and Superior Courts during the past four years :—

——	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Number of offences reported to the police -	1,451	1,727	*594	*649
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - - - - -	1,451	1,727	*1,279	*1.356
Number of summary convictions - -	662	815	877	961
Number of convictions in the Superior Court - - - - -	24	27	21	28
Number of persons acquitted:—				
In the Inferior Court - -	242	333	356	337
In the Superior Court - -	24	12	16	38

* NOTE.—In the years previous to 1888 the number of offences reported to the police and the number of persons apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates, were stated together; but in the returns for 1888 and 1889 they are given separately.

As regards the number of acquittals in the Superior Courts, given in the Returns for 1889, viz., 38, the Attorney-General, in his Report on the criminal statistics, has explained as follows :—

" The actual acquittals, that is, those cases in which the verdict
" went for the prisoner, were 11 in number; the remaining 27
" were cases in which there took place what would, under the old
" system, have amounted to a refusal by the grand jury to return

GRENADA.

" a true bill. Under the existing system these were cases in which " the Attorney-General exercised the discretion vested in him " and declined to present indictments. The number of such " cases is unduly large, and in some instances is owing to the " fact that indictable offences cases are sent on for trial without " its having been sufficiently considered whether a *primâ facie* " case of guilt has been established."

Parochial Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the revenue of each of the six parochial boards in the year from 1st October 1888 to 30th September 1889, and their expenditure within the same period. The boards have the management of the towns and of the " parish bye-ways," and they are responsible for the payment of one moiety of the cost of repairs and maintenance of the " public bye-ways." The revenue is raised and expended by them for these purposes.

Parishes.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	Balances at 30th September 1888.	Receipts in 1888-89.	Total.	Expenditure in 1888-89.	Balance in hand at 30th September 1889.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. George - -	226 0 1	2,249 8 8	2,475 8 9	2,258 0 5	217 8 4	2,475 8 9
St. David - -	6 15 5	333 18 4	340 13 9	343 2 10	—	343 2 10
St. Andrew - -	198 19 8	1,361 11 5	1,560 11 1	1,041 13 3	518 17 10	1,560 11 1
St. Patrick - -	—	663 7 11	663 7 11	391 2 1½	272 5 9½	663 7 11
St. Mark - -	88 13 2	408 6 1	496 19 3	427 17 5	69 1 10	496 19 3
St. John - -	11 14 1	587 2 10	598 16 11	547 0 6	51 16 5	598 16 11
Carriacou - -	181 7 6	313 5 8	494 13 2	258 10 0	236 3 2	494 13 2
Totals -	713 9 11	5,917 0 11	6,630 10 10	5,267 6 6½	1,365 13 4½	6,632 19 11

Hospitals and Asylums.

Colony Hospital.—There were 41 patients in the hospital on the 1st January 1889, of whom 19 were males and 22 were females. 371 patients (239 males and 132 females) were admitted during the year, making a total of 412 treated, of whom 258 were males and 154 were females.

Of these, 224 were discharged cured, 106 were discharged as relieved, 30 died, and there remained in the hospital, on the 31st December 1889, 52 patients, of whom 29 were males and 23 were females. The per-centage of deaths on the total number of cases treated was 7·28.

The average daily cost of each patient was a fraction over 1*s*. The Colonial Surgeon reports that "the general sanitary condition "of the Hospital during the year has been most satisfactory."

Yaws Hospital.—There were 77 patients in the hospital on 1st January 1889, 47 males and 30 females, and 145 males and 85 females were admitted during the year, making a total of 230. The daily average in hospital was 64. The total number discharged cured was 247, of whom 152 were males and 95 were females; three patients died during the year.

St. Andrew's Hospital. — Seven patients remained in the hospital on the 1st January 1889, of whom five were males and two were females. 85 males and 24 females were admitted during the year. The daily average in hospital was eight. 58 males and 15 females were discharged cured; 23 males and 9 females were discharged relieved; and three males and one female died during the year.

St. John's Hospital.—Seven patients remained in hospital on 1st January 1889, of whom five were males and two were females. 69 males and 39 females were admitted during the year. The daily average in hospital was 4·7 males and 2·3 females. 48 males and 24 females were discharged cured; nine males and eight females were discharged as relieved; and five males and four females died during the year.

Carriacou Hospital.—One female remained in the hospital on the 1st January 1889. 45 males and 23 females were admitted during the year. The daily average in hospital was two males and 1·5 females. 41 males and 22 females were discharged as cured; two males were discharged relieved; and one male and one female died during the year.

Lunatic Asylum.—On 1st January 1889 there were 70 inmates in the asylum, of whom 39 were males and 31 were females. The admissions during the year were 16 males and 10 females. The daily average was 38 males and 36 females. Four males were discharged, and three females, as cured; two males and three females were discharged as relieved, and four males and five females died during the year. The cost of maintenance per head was 15*l*. 3*s*. per annum. The medical officer of the asylum reports that "the general sanitary condition of the asylum throughout "the year was satisfactory."

Poor Asylum.—There remained in the Poor Asylum, on 1st January 1889, 45 inmates, 26 being males and 19 females. The admissions during the year numbered 25, viz., 13 males and 12 females. Forty-eight inmates remained on 31st December 1889, viz., 26 males and 22 females. The daily average was 46. The average cost per head was 9*l*. 10*s*. 5*d*. per annum.

Conclusion.

As I arrived in the Colony some weeks after the close of the year to which to this report relates, I am unable to offer any

GRENADA.

general remarks in regard to the Colony's history during that year, as the result of personal observation or experience.

Beyond observing that the health of the inhabitants was generally good and their condition prosperous and contented, I will only specially refer to one important change, for which the preliminary, arrangements were matured at the end of the year, namely, the introduction of an improved system of public audit, under which the accounts of both the revenue and expenditure in Grenada and the other islands of the Windward group are examined and audited in the department of the Comptroller and Auditor General in London. The system of pre-audit hitherto applied to items of receipt and expenditure has been done away with; and the new system is purely one of audit of accounts of past transactions prepared and rendered by the Colonial Treasurer and supported by vouchers, with an audit of revenue conducted on the spot by a local auditor from the Audit Department in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LAURENCE R. FYFE,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
The Hon. Sir W. Hely-Hutchinson, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.
Governor of the Windward Islands.

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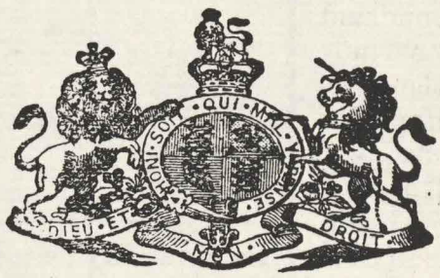
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 72.

BRITISH GUIANA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 28.)



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1889.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
22	Labuan	1887
23	Malta	,,
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
25	St. Vincent	,,
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,

No. 72.

BRITISH GUIANA.

LORD GORMANSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
MY LORD, July 31, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, under separate cover, two bound copies of the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1888.

2. I also transmit the Report on the Blue Book by Mr. Charles T. Cox, Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. (Signed) GORMANSTON.
Lord Knutsford, K.C.M.G
&c. &c.

REPORT on the Results shown in the BLUE BOOK for 1888.

TAXES, DUTIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

1. Several changes in the duties of Customs were made at the Session of Combined Court in May 1888. The following are the chief:—

On rum the excise duty was raised from 60 cents to 75 cents a gallon.

On ganje and opium the duty was raised from $3 to $4 a pound.

On perfumed spirits the duty was raised from $2 to $2 50 a gallon.

Beef, pork, and lard, which had been free from duty since 1883, were again placed under taxation, and a duty levied of $1.50 per barrel of 200 lbs. on the two former and 1 cent per lb. on the last named.

On oils the duty was raised from 20 cents to 25 cents a gallon.

The increased duty on rum which was levied from May yielded about 6,800*l.*; the other changes came into force on the 1st July,

and the increase to the Customs revenue for the year caused thereby amounted to 10,381*l.*

The stamp duties were also extended to receipts, bills of exchange, bankers' cheques, &c., which had not hitherto been taxed, but as these were only levied from 1st October the addition to the revenue of the year was not more than about 2,400*l.*

REVENUE.

2. The Colonial revenue for the year 1888 was 461,941, a decrease of 1,929*l.* on the revenue of 1887. The increases are exhibited under the following heads :—

	£
Excise duty on rum - - -	3,624
Retail spirit licenses - - -	1,319
Wood-cutting licenses - - -	525
Other licenses - - - -	637
Fees of office - - - -	468
Taxes fixed by law - - -	465
Miscellaneous - - - -	2,672
Fines and seizures - - -	596

With the exception of the excise duty on rum, which was caused by the increased duty mentioned under the last head, none of these items call for special remark.

3. The heads of revenue which suffered a decrease were :—

	£
Import duties - - - -	9,305
Wines and spirit duties - - -	1,282
Beacon and tonnage dues - - -	1,700
Interest - - - - -	1,690
Establishments under Government -	1,273

The decrease in these items appears due to ordinary fluctuation.

EXPENDITURE.

4. The total Colonial expenditure amounted to 490,566*l.* and exceeded the expenditure of 1887 by 1,351*l.* It appears to be fairly uniform with the preceding year, and the various items have not been affected by any circumstances requiring special notice.

LOCAL REVENUES.

5. *Georgetown.*—The municipal revenue and expenditure for the year were respectively 45,868*l.* and 45,020*l.*, both being in excess of the revenue and expenditure of 1887. The house tax remained at the rate of 2 per cent. on appraised value.

The 100 acres of land purchased by the city in 1887 with a loan from the Government have been incorporated with the municipal limits by proclamation dated 18th October, and have

been laid out in building lots, a large number of which speedily found purchasers.

6. *New Amsterdam.*—The municipal revenue and expenditure for the year were respectively 7,904*l.* and 7,897*l.*, being a decrease in the revenue of 16*l.* and an increase in the expenditure of 270*l.* compared with the previous year. There was no change in the town taxes.

7. *Villages.*—Eighteen incorporated villages were rated at a uniform rate of 2 per cent. on house and landed property, and the revenue derived therefrom amounted to 3,570*l.*, being less than in 1887, when the revenue was 4,292*l.*

The expenditure on 19 villages amounted to 8,096*l.*, of which 5,905*l.* was spent on drainage, roads, dams and bridges. The total expenditure in the previous year was 11,334*l.*, much of which was due to the excessive rainfall of 1886–87.

The liabilities of the villages on 31st December 1888 in respect of the Government loan amounted to 16,866*l.* compared with 16,893*l.* on 31st December 1887.

PUBLIC DEBT.

8. Bonds to the extent of 75,000*l.* were issued on the 1st October, being the first issue under Ordinance 14 of 1887, which authorises the raising of 520,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for public purposes; and the public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged stood on the 31st December 1888 at 516,700*l.*

Bonds to the extent of 9,244*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.* matured during the year and were paid off.

The sinking fund has been further increased by 11,791*l.*, and on the 31st December stood at 55,104*l.*, being full provision to that date for the redemption of bonds in terms of the various Ordinances.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue appear as follows at the close of the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For immigration - - - -	120,000	0	0
To city of Georgetown - - -	12,107	0	7½
To town of New Amsterdam - -	1,527	15	6
To Commissioners of Vlissengen - -	47,916	13	4
Total guaranteed loans - -	181,551	9	5½
Amount for which general revenue is directly pledged - - - -	516,700	0	0
Grand total, 1888 - -	698,251	9	5½
„ 1887 -	632,495	9	8
Increase - - -	65,755	19	9½

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

9. The expenditure of the Colony for military purposes was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial troops - - - -	2,102	7	6
Georgetown militia - - - -	1,206	19	9
British Guiana Volunteer Force - -	312	10	0
	2,621	17	3
The Imperial expenditure was - -	6,608	13	2
Total - - -	9,230	10	5

or 830*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* less than in the preceding year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

10. The expenditure on public works in 1888 defrayed from current revenue was 26,684*l.*, being 11,463*l.* less than the expenditure during the preceding year. No new works of any importance were taken in hand.

The expenditure on loan account was 24,688*l.*, or 7,021*l.* less than in 1887.

The works at the Canals Polder were carried on steadily during the year at a cost of 12,531*l.*

The choked condition of most of the creeks of the Colony had attracted attention for some time past and it was decided that the general revenue should bear the initial cost of cleaning them, legislative provisions being made for their future care by the proprietors of the estates on their banks. A sum of 2,031*l.* was spent on this work in 1888 out of a total vote of 4,375*l.*

The connexion of villages on the east coast with the water supply scheme, which had been commenced in September 1887, was proceeded with at a cost of 3,399*l.*

LEGISLATION.

11. Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year. Their titles are as follows:—

No. 1.—"To naturalise Fortunato Pietro Luigi Josa."

No. 2.—"To provide for the improvement and better maintenance of the Mahaica Canal."

No. 3.—"To prevent the manufacture or issue of Counterfeit British or Foreign Postage Stamps."

No. 4.—"To amend the Industrial and Reformatory Schools' Ordinance, 1868."

No. 5.—"To amend section 35 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1887."

No. 6.—"Colonial taxes."

No. 7.—"Colonial duties of Customs, 1888."

No. 8.—"To consolidate and amend the Law relating to Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise."

This followed on the lines of the English Act and was passed with a view to uniformity of practice.

No. 9.—"To authorise a loan of two hundred and forty thousand dollars to the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown for carrying out certain permanent improvements within the city."

The improvements referred to are connected with drains, tunnels, bridges, stellings, water supply, &c., and the erection of a new town hall.

No. 10.—"To repeal the Stamps Duties Ordinance, 1855, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

No. 11.—"To provide for keeping the creeks of the Colony clear and free from obstructions."

No. 12.—"To regulate the appointment of auctioneers and sales at auction."

No. 13.—"To make special provision for the construction and maintenance of sea defences on the east sea-coast of the county of Demerary."

This Ordinance places the execution of works of sea defence on the east coast, with power to recover the cost thereof from the plantations benefited, in the hands of Commissioners selected by the proprietors of the estates in the district. It is on the lines of the West Coast Sea Defence Ordinance of 1887.

No. 14.—"To make special provision for the winding up of the affairs of the Portuguese Benevolent Society."

No. 15.—"To vest in trustees the property held for the support and maintenance of the Lutheran Church Establishment in Berbice, and for the benefit of the members thereof, and to provide for the proper supervision and control of such property."

No. 16.—"To re-enact provisions similar to those contained in the repealed Ordinance No. 8 of 1865, for securing the re-payment of advances made by sequestrators of plantations in cultivation, not forming part of insolvent estates, in maintaining the cultivation thereof during the period of sequestration."

No. 17.—"To amend section 38 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1888, intituled 'Colonial Taxes'."

PROCLAMATIONS.

12. The most important proclamation during the year was that issued on the 2nd June. Amongst other changes in fiscal districts it includes under the title North-Western District a large extent of territory in that part of the Colony which had become sufficiently populous to be brought under the machinery of the Civil Government. Police, Customs, Revenue and Gold stations have been or will shortly be established throughout the district.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

13. No change has yet been made in the political franchise or the constitution of the Colony. The matter is still receiving attention, however, and it will therefore be convenient to reprint the description of the franchise given by Mr. Collier in his Report on the Blue Book for 1887 :—

The county franchise is determined by the possession of three acres of land under cultivation, or of house property of 20*l.* annual rental ; by the occupancy for three years of six acres of land under cultivation, or for one year of house property of 40*l.* annual rental ; or in the electoral division in which an elector resides, by his possession of an income of 125*l.*, or payment of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* direct taxes to the Colonial revenue.

The town franchise is determined by the possession of house property of the value of 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, or occupancy of the same at an annual rental of 25*l.*; or in the electoral division in which an elector resides, by possession of an income of 125*l.*, or payment of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* direct taxes.

Aliens possessing the above qualifications are entitled to vote after a residence in the Colony for a space of three years before the election.

All persons so qualified claiming the right to vote are required to be registered in lists prepared at the close of each year in the three county electoral districts by the several stipendiary magistrates exercising jurisdiction therein and in the towns by the municipal authorities of the same.

The lists are revised by the Registrar of British Guiana and are thereafter published in the "Official Gazette" and in one other newspaper of the Colony.

The number of electors so registered was, on 31st December 1887, 1,418, as compared with 1,233 registered in 1886. From these numbers it will be self-evident that a comparatively small proportion of the inhabitants at present avail themselves of their right to enrol as voters.

The electoral divisions are :—No. 1. The county of Demerara (exclusive of Georgetown), which returns one member to the College of Electors and one member to the Financial College. No. 2. The city of Georgetown, returning two electors and one financial representative. No. 3. The county of Essequebo, returning two electors and two financial representatives. No. 4. The county of Berbice (exclusive of the town of New Amsterdam), returning one elector and one financial representative ; and No. 5. The town of New Amsterdam, likewise returning one elector and one financial representative.

To be eligible for a seat in the Court of Policy a person must possess not less than 80 acres of land within the Colony, 40 acres whereof shall be actually and *bonâ fide* under cultivation.

The qualifications for seats in the Colleges of Electors and Financial representatives are more varied. They may be either (1) through the possession of land on the same conditions as for a seat in the Court of Policy; (2) the possession by freehold or by lease for 21 years or upwards of house or house and premises of which the rental or value per annum shall be at least 250*l.*; or (3) the possession of a clear annual income of 300*l.*, derived from property in the Colony or from profits of trade or profession carried on within the Colony.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

14. The Court of Policy and Combined Court sat during the year at the usual periods. While Mr. Villiers acted as Government Secretary, *i.e.*, from 18th October to the end of the year, Mr. Charles Piercy Austin sat as an official member, and during Mr. Alexander's absence, Mr. Charles Berry King, the Acting Immigration Agent General, occupied his seat in the Court. From the 26th May to 18th October Mr. Melville sat in the Court as Acting Government Secretary. Mr. Kingdon also sat as Acting Attorney-General throughout the year.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

15. *Deaths.*—Eight public officers died during the year, seven in the Colony and one while absent on leave, viz.:—

Dr. J. T. Davis	aged	44	Government Medical
„ A. Rannie	„	26	Officers.
Mr. E. Gain	„	31	Dispenser, Berbice Hospital.
„ A. Gordon	„	38	Stipendiary Magistrate.
„ T. G. Wight	„	63	Crown Surveyor.
„ W. G. Pierce	„	40	Commissary of Taxation.
„ R. W. Imlach	„	72	Crown Solicitor.
Sergt.-Major McCowan	„	50	Georgetown Militia.

Appointments, Promotions, &c.—Amongst the more important changes were the following:—

His Excellency the Right Hon. Viscount Gormanston, K.C.M.G., assumed the government on the 13th January, but eight months later he was compelled by severe illness to seek a temporary change of climate and left the Colony on leave of absence on 29th September. The Lieut. Governor, the Hon. Charles Bruce, C.M.G., being also absent, the administration of the Government devolved upon the Hon. Francis Villiers, C.M.G., who was acting as Government Secretary on the date of the Governor's departure. Mr. Villiers administered from the 29th September to the 18th October, when Mr. Bruce arrived. Mr. Bruce administered the Government to the end of the year.

Mr. George Melville acted as Government Secretary from 26th May to 25th September and from 29th September to 18th October, and as Auditor General from the 18th October to the end of the year. Mr. Villiers acted as Government Secretary from 18th October to the end of the year.

On the 12th December Mr. John Worrell Carrington, D.C.L., C.M.G., was appointed to be Attorney-General in the room of Mr. W. F. Haynes Smith, LL.D., C.M.G., who had been appointed to be Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Mr. F. M. Hodgson, Postmaster-General, having been appointed to the Colonial Secretaryship of the Gold Coast, he was succeeded by Mr. F. W. Collier, Chief Clerk in the Government Secretariat, on the 19th October.

Mr. J. M. Moore was appointed Assistant Colonial Civil Engineer in the room of Mr. M. B. Jamieson, who resigned.

Mr. W. Nicoll, Mr. C. S. Davson, and Mr. J. T. Cartwright were appointed Stipendiary Magistrates.

Drs. J. E. A. Ferguson, P. E. Perot, J. D'Aguiar, F. Fernandes, R. Carter, W. S. Barnes, M. H. C. Irving, A. Matthey, W. J. Von Winckler and P. M. Earle were appointed to the Medical Service during the year. The five first named had been previously employed in acting appointments.

Mr. James Veecock was appointed to be accountant in the Registrar's Office in the room of Mr. Schurer, who died, and he was succeeded by Mr. Percy Hemery as accountant in the Savings Bank.

In the Clergy Establishment the Rev. C. B. Seifferth was transferred from the Penal Settlement to be Rector of St. Peter's, Wakenaam, in the room of the late Rev. W. T. Veness, and the Rev. A. Gwyther succeeded him as chaplain of the Penal Settlement.

The Rev. James Muir was apppointed to the Church of Scotland Parish of St. James, in the room of the Rev. Wm. Harper.

Sir David Chalmers went on leave on the 21st July, and His Honour Mr. Justice Atkinson acted as Chief Justice to the end of the year,

SECURITY.

16. At the annual inspection of securities it was found that 138 officers had given security for the due discharge of their duties, and the sums for which they gave security ranged from 52*l.* to 2,083*l.*

Only six officers remain of those who prior to the establishment of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund executed the usual security bonds, and who consequently do not subscribe to the fund.

The receipts of the fund for the year ended 30th September 1888 were 432*l.*, and the total amount at credit on that date was 2,970*l.* The sums guaranteed by the fund amounted at the close of that period to 53,833*l.*

PENSIONS.

17. The pension list of 1888 contains the names of 54 pensioners, the number in 1887 being 47. The difference of seven, however, does not represent the increase of the year, for the names of five of the inferior servants of the Colonial Hospitals who have received pensions for some years under the special sanction of the Combined Court are now included in the list for the sake of uniformity.

The actual results of the year were an addition of eight pensioners, with pensions aggregating 1,393*l.*, less six pensioners who ded and whose pensions aggregated 1,077*l.*

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

18. This fund is formed from abatements of 4 per cent. from the salaries of all public officers receiving 100*l.* a year or upwards, and from interest on moneys invested. The receipts in 1888 amounted to 9,611*l.*, and the pensions paid to 8,913*l.* The capital of the fund on 31st December 1888 was 59,937. There were 119 pensioners on the fund at the close of the year and 392 contributors, of whom 242 were married.

POPULATION.

19. The population of the Colony is estimated to have increased from 277,038 on 31st December 1887 to 278,477 on 31st December 1888.

There was an excess of immigration over emigration from India of 1,017, and an excess of births over deaths of 422.

IMMIGRATION.

20. 2,892 souls, equal to 2,427 statute adults, were introduced into the Colony from Calcutta during the year, less by over one third than the number introduced in 1887.

1,734 statute adults returned to India after having served their period of indenture, taking with them savings amounting to 16,452*l.* in money, and jewellery valued at 3,354*l.*

The amount remitted by immigrants in the Colony to their relatives and friends in India shows a gratifying increase year by year, having risen from 1,557*l.* in 1886 to 3,381*l.* in 1888.

The total Indian immigrant population of the Colony on 31st December 1888 was estimated at 103,849, or 1,103 more than on the same date in the previous year. Of these 73,384 were resident

on the plantations, 18,243 being indentured, 37,241 unindentured, and 17,900 children.

At the close of the year a sum of 82,987*l.* stood at the credit of Indian immigrant depositors in the Government Savings Banks; the corresponding sum in the preceding year being 91,375*l.*

EDUCATION.

21. *Queen's College.*— Seventy-four students were in this Institution on 31st December 1888. At the Cambridge Local Examination held in December 12 students were successful, and the Guiana Scholarship was awarded to one of these, an average candidate, who earned the marks which would have entitled him to first-class honours and marks of distinction.

22. *Elementary Schools.*—Government aid amounting to 21,124*l.* was granted to 159 schools, of which 25 were in Georgetown and six in New Amsterdam; the rest being scattered through the country districts. The number of children on the registers was 21,384, and the number in average attendance 13,191, showing increases respectively of 59 and 371, and the per-centage of full passes to average attendance ranged from 66·25 in Berbice to 85·14 in Georgetown.

SCHOOL FOR VAGRANT BOYS AND YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

23. There were 151 boys in the school at the close of the year, one more than in 1887.

Sixty-five acres of land were in cultivation, and the labour of the boys yielded return of 454*l.* from the sale of provisions, &c.

The cost of the institution was 1,090*l.* exclusive of salaries.

REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

24. This institution was opened in Georgetown on the 2nd July on the premises of the old training college. At the close of the year there were nine inmates, of ages ranging from 9 to 16. The want of such an institution has long been felt, and it is hoped that permanent benefit will result to the class it is intended to deal with.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

25. *Value of Imports.*—The imports of 1888 were valued at 1,586,055*l.*, showing a decrease of 17,120*l.* compared with the imports of 1887.

Articles of Food.—The following comparative statement shows the principal articles of food imported during 1887 and 1888 :—

Statement of the Principal Articles of Food imported during the Years 1887 *and* 1888.

	1887.		1888.		Quantity.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£		£		
Beef, pickled, brls -	7,712	16,098	5,670	12,116	—	2,042
Bread, lbs. - -	845,962	7,352	627,480	5,969	—	218,482
Butter, lbs. - -	698,298	29,973	590,122	22,037	—	108,176
Corn and pulse, bush. -	159,177	32,443	128,408	28,451	—	30,769
Oat and cornmeal, lbs. -	1,798,280	6,213	1,433,696	5,324	—	364,584
Fish, dried, quint. -	79,584	50,609	71,695	59,344	—	7,889
Flour, brls. - -	142,210	111,783	147,946	112,505	5,736	—
Lard, lbs. - - -	639,751	9,050	404,934	7,260	—	234,817
Onions, lbs. - -	2,374,803	4,800	1,970,090	4,717	—	404,713
Pork, brls. - - -	16,623	46,523	14,885	43,074	—	1,738
Rice, lbs. - - -	43,744,028	197,381	48,619,016	209,577	4,874,988	—

26 *Value of Exports.*—The value of the exports was 2,024,733*l.*, being 165,859*l.* less than in 1887.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1887 and 1888 :—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the Years 1887 *and* 1888, *showing the Increase or Decrease in* 1888 *in each Description of Export.*

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1888.	Decrease in 1888.
	1887.	1888.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar - - -	1,798,637 14 2	1,606,690 10 3½	—	191,947 3 10½
Rum - - -	139,664 1 5	93,118 11 1	—	46,545 10 2
Molasses - - -	44,209 5 9	73,604 8 0	29,395 2 3	—
Gold - - -	44,427 11 8½	55,566 8 11½	11,138 17 3	—
Timber - - -	11,198 11 6½	13,597 12 5½	2,399 0 11	—
Charcoal - - -	7,449 9 8	8,369 18 4	920 8 8	—
Gum, Balata - -	3,493 7 4½	14,068 13 2½	10,570 5 10	—
„ other - -	2,020 10 9	479 5 11½	—	1,541 4 9½
Shingles - - -	2,370 5 9	2,184 0 4½	—	186 5 4½
Hides and horns - -	3,555 2 5½	2,445 19 7½	—	1,109 2 10
Cocoanuts - - -	1,137 1 2½	563 5 11½	—	573 15 3

Articles.	Value. 1887.	Value. 1888.	Increase in 1888.	Decrease in 1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bird skins and feathers	948 1 0	189 3 4	—	758 17 8
Plants	499 10 6	16 7 10	—	483 2 8
Cocoa	388 16 0½	0 8 2	—	388 7 10½
Isinglass	338 5 0	407 4 9	68 19 9	—
Cattle and live stock	300 0 0	41 5 0	—	258 15 0
Bread—biscuits, &c.	236 13 8	927 10 5	690 16 9	—
Cassava starch	169 13 4	102 15 7½	—	66 17 8½
Firewood	165 0 4	186 5 4	21 5 0	—
Fibre	160 9 3	190 1 9	29 12 6	—
Arrowroot	153 6 8	25 0 0	—	128 6 8
Plantains and plantaiff suckers	144 6 4	259 11 8	115 5 4	—
Corn and pulse	67 1 8	361 19 4	294 17 8	—
Coffee	9 11 8	—	—	9 11 8
Miscellaneous	1,738 4 2½	3,324 8 1	1,586 3 10½	—
Total Colonial produce	2,063,487 1 3½	1,876,720 15 6½	57,230 15 9½	243,997 1 6½
Total foreign produce	127,105 5 4	148,012 4 7½	—	—
Total exports	2,190,592 6 7½	2,024,733 0 2	—	—
Net decrease Colonial produce in 1888	—	—	—	186,766 5 9
Net increase foreign produce in 1888	—	—	20,906 19 3½	—
	2,190,592 6 7½	2,024,733 0 2	—	165,859 6 5½

27. *Direction of Trade.*—The following comparative statement shows the direction and value of the trade of the Colony in 1887 and 1888:—

Countries.	Imports. 1887.	Imports. 1888.	Exports. 1887.	Exports. 1888.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	916,417	918,114	1,147,988	1,003,306
United States	317,021	322,342	813,773	773,682
British North America	94,930	84,741	42,316	30,427
British West Indies	32,577	54,947	31,905	44,208
Bermuda	413	846	4,934	2,709
India	169,589	146,984	458	1,002
Foreign countries other than United States	72,228	57,579	148,687	168,707
African Possessions	—	502	531	692
Total	1,603,175	1,586,055	2,190,592	2,024,733

The following figures show the diversion of the export trade from the United Kingdom to the United States, viz.:—

Exports.

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
United Kingdom, per cent. of total exports - - - -	71·	58·	52·	49·
United States, per cent. of total exports - - - -	17·	30·	37·	38·

SHIPPING, 1888.

28. *Vessels.*—The number of vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of the Colony, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, during the year was as follows:—

—	Ports.	Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown - - -	180	137,897	6,433	179	135,683	6,409
	New Amsterdam - -	—	—	—	7	6,004	166
	Total - -	180	137,897	6,433	186	141,687	6,575
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown - - -	636	131,865	5,292	632	133,848	5,392
	New Amsterdam - -	30	6,942	221	25	6,035	184
	Total - -	666	138,807	5,513	657	139,883	5,576
	Total steam and sailing vessels - - -	846	276,704	11,946	843	281,570	12,151

29. As compared with the previous year there was a decrease in the number of vessels entering the ports of the Colony:—

—	Vessels.	1887.		1888.		Increase 1888.		Decrease 1888.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered.	Steam vessels - -	164	137,932	180	137,897	16	—	—	35
	Sailing do. - -	797	190,060	666	138,807	—	—	131	51,253
	Totals - -	961	327,992	846	276,704	—	—	115	51,288
Cleared.	Steam vessels - -	166	139,783	186	141,687	20	1,904	—	—
	Sailing do. - -	798	193,415	657	139,883	—	—	141	53,532
	Totals - -	964	333,198	843	281,570	—	—	121	51,628

AGRICULTURE.

30. *Sugar Industry.*—The area of land in sugar cultivation according to returns furnished up to 30th June 1888 was 76,625 acres, a slight increase on the year before. 4,314 acres were in plantains, and the remaining land occupied by the sugar plantations, but uncultivated, amounted to 76,581.

A further gratifying improvement in the value of the staple product of the Colony has to be recorded.

From a value of 20*l.* a hogshead in 1880 vacuum pan sugar fell in 1886 to 11*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* It rose to 13*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.* in 1887 and in 1888 the average value was 15*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

The exports during the year were :—

		Value.
		£
Sugar - - - -	120,135 hhds.	1,606,690
Rum - - - -	14,073 puns.	93,118
Molasses - - - -	26,604 casks	73,604

These are considerably less than the figures for 1887, except molasses, but in that year favourable seasons had helped to produce the largest crop ever made in the Colony.

The exports of 1887 are given for comparison :—

		Value.
		£
Sugar - - - -	149,860 hhds.	1,798,637
Rum - - - -	24,829 puns.	139,664
Molasses - - - -	19,019 casks	44,209

31. *Minor Industries.*—There was a falling off in the export of timber and shingles, but a great increase in corn, of which 349 bushels were sent out of the Colony in 1887 and 2,286 in 1888, and in charcoal, of which 59,998 packages were shipped in 1887 and 67,387 in 1888.

The export of arrowroot fell off greatly, 2,400 lbs. being shipped in 1888 and 14,528 lbs. in 1887, while that of cocoa almost entirely ceased, 14 lbs. being exported in 1888 compared with 13,019 lbs. in 1887. There does not appear to have been any decrease in the production of these articles, and local consumption must therefore account for the difference.

The manufacture for export of bread, biscuits, crackers, &c. increased considerably during the year, 94,802 lbs., valued at

927*l.*, having been shipped, compared with 32,300 lbs., value 236*l.*, in 1887.

32. *Ballata and India Rubber.*—It is gratifying to record the growth of another industry in the collection of ballata. The legislation of 1887, placing the collection of this and other gums on a proper footing, has been eagerly taken advantage of and 25 ballata licenses were issued during the year, the result of which has been to increase the export of this useful article from 80,942 lbs., value 3,498*l.*, in 1887, to 248,484 lbs., value 14,068*l.*, in 1888.

821 licenses were taken out for "bleeders," as the labourers engaged in the extraction of the gum are termed.

33. *Prices of Market Articles.*—The prices of these remained much the same as in 1887, and there is no change which calls for remark, except an increase in the cost of plantains of about 2*d.* a bunch. From the return furnished from the Stabroek Market the price to the consumer of salt beef and salt pork does not appear to have been increased notwithstanding the import duty imposed during the year.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

34. There is nothing under this head which requires notice except the steady advance in the gold industry. The export of gold has increased from 6,518 ozs. in 1886 and 11,906 ozs. in 1887 to 14,570 ozs. in 1888. The number of placer claims granted in 1888 was 141, less by 34 than in 1887, but of course many of the old placers are still being worked. Quartz mining has not yet begun, although companies are being formed for commencing operations.

GRANTS OF LAND.

35. Eight licenses of occupancy and 28 woodcutting licenses were issued during the year for an area of 10,926 acres, an increase on the previous year of 2,254 acres. The grants were generally larger in area, only seven being for 100 acres or under, 23 being between 100 and 500 acres, and five for more than 500 acres.

The timber exported amounted to 193,541 cubic feet, valued at 13,597*l.*, as compared with 222,217 cubic feet in 1887, valued at 11,198*l.*—a striking difference in the value of the wood.

Nineteen applications for licenses to grow rice were granted during the year; in seven formal licenses have been issued. These latter ranged in area from five to 48 acres. Nearly all the rice-growing industry is carried on in the low-lying lands in rear of the plantations on the east coast of Demerara.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

36. *Police Reports.*—The decrease noted in the report last year has been maintained, although not to the same extent. The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates was

BRITISH GUIANA.

9,938 compared with 9,242 in 1887, but the reports in 1886 numbered 11,463.

Apprehensions and Summonses.—The statistics for the last three years are as follows:—

	1886.	1887.	1888.
Convicted - - - -	11,245	10,389	11,191
Discharged - - - -	7,543	7,053	6,454
Acquitted - - - -	5,734	4,616	5,292
Sent to higher courts - - -	398	336	397
Total - - -	24,920	22,394	23,334

The decrease under the second head is satisfactory as evidencing a diminution in frivolous prosecutions.

37. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 11,191, as compared with 10,389 in 1887 and 11,245 in 1886, and in the superior courts the convictions numbered 329, as compared with 243 in 1887 and 272 in 1886.

The increase in the number of convictions is divided as follows:—

	1887.	1888.
Offences against the person - - -	2,552	3,043
Prædial larceny - -	284	391
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - - - - -	1,052	1,068
Other offences - - - -	6,744	7,018

The per-centage of the five following forms of punishment by magistrates to the total number punished is as follows:—

Punishment.	1887.	1888.
Fine - - - - - -	54·55	52·39
Peremptory imprisonment - -	11·34	11·91
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	29·73	32·26
Whipping - - - - -	3·31	1·43
Bound over with or without sureties - -	1·07	2·01

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

38. The number of prisoners committed for the purpose of penal imprisonment was 4,468, and 829 were committed for safety till trial or for want of security.

The increase in the number of those previously convicted is only apparent and is due to the fact that the return for 1887 from the Georgetown Prison only included re-convictions by the Supreme Court and omitted those by the magistrates. The figures are :—

	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.
1887 - - -	1,352	318	72
1888 - - -	3,569	361	164

There were 1,132 admissions to prison hospitals and 8 deaths, comparing favourably with the year before, in which there were 1,367 admissions to hospital and 23 deaths. The daily average on the sick list was 25, three less than in 1887.

Whipping was inflicted 14 times for offences within the prison walls as compared with nine times in 1887. The birch is chiefly used. The other punishments inflicted on prisoners by the prison authorities numbered 2,476 in 1888 and 2,567 in 1887.

HOSPITALS.

39. *Admissions.*—There were 734 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year, an increase of 33 on the number at the same time of the year 1887. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 6,930, as compared with 9,879 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 2,437, as compared with 2,541 in 1887. At the commencement of the year there were 104 patients in hospital compared with 97 at the commencement of 1887.

Forty-six patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 1,119 were admitted, as compared with 773 in the previous year; while in the free hospital at Massaruni there were three patients on the 1st January and 88 admissions during the year, a decrease of 77 as compared with the previous year.

40. *Out-patients.*—36,214 out-patients—an increase of 6,575 on the previous year—were treated at the public hospital in George-

town; 5,654 as compared with 2,041 at the hospital at New Amsterdam; 6,455 at Suddie; and 522 at Massaruni.

41. *Discharges.*—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	2,514	1,891	412	35
Relieved - - -	2,862	278	596	32
Not improved - -	657	43	—	10
Total -	6,033	2,212	1,008	77

42. *Deaths.* — There were 1,000 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 975 in 1887.

In the New Amsterdam Hospital there were 222 deaths as against 204 in 1887; in the Hospital, Essequebo, 115, as against 128 in the previous year; and at Massaruni Hospital 13 as against 17 in 1887.

43. *Diseases.*—The following is a comparative table of the diseases treated at the four public hospitals and of the deaths from such diseases for the years 1887 and 1888:—

Diseases.	Georgetown.				New Amsterdam.			
	1887.		1888.		1887.		1888.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	3,074	88	2,159	430	1,276	103	1,302	121
Constitutional - -	1,021	318	3,650	520	73	16	42	21
Local - - -	4,501	509			1,034	62	984	60
Developmental - -	304	48	193	31	60	21	55	18
By violence, &c. - -	412	10	359	9	195	2	158	2
Other diseases - -	199	—	284	6	—	—	—	—
Total - -	9,511	973	6,645*	996*	2,638	204	2,541	222

* These figures do not include 285 cases and four deaths amongst seamen. By adding these the total will be found to agree with the figures given in paragraphs 39 and 42.

(*continued.*)

Diseases.	Suddie.				Massaruni.			
	1887.		1888.		1887.		1888.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	250	44	439	34	84	7	40	7
Constitutional - -	81	30	84	18	6	1	3	1
Local - - - -	414	41	519	53	39	5	22	3
Developmental - -	57	11	72	10	10	2	9	1
By violence, &c. - -	28	2	34	—	19	2	87	1
Other diseases -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	830	128	1,148	115	158	17	161	13

The cases treated in all the public hospitals amounted in the aggregate to 10,495, and the deaths to 1,346, showing a mortality of 12·73 per cent. of cases treated.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

44. *Admissions.*—The admissions were 160 (98 males and 62 females). The daily average number in the asylum was 600, an increase of 26·4 as compared with 1887.

45. *Discharges.*—54 inmates (45 males and nine females) were discharged as cured.

46. *Deaths.*—There were 76 deaths (46 males and 30 females) in the institution. In 18 instances the deceased suffered from "Bright's" disease.

47. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at the close of the year were classified as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Maniacal and dangerous - - -	94	48
Quiet chronic - - - -	250	140
Melancholy and suicidal - - -	22	12
Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	37	25
	403	225

LEPER ASYLUMS.

48. The accommodation for males consists of three two-storey buildings raised on brick pillars and twenty huts. The females occupy six one-story buildings on pillars and one cottage.

At the close of the year there were at the asylums 352 inmates (275 males and 77 females). 60 males and 16 females were admitted during the year. 42 inmates died, the mortality being 11 per cent. on the cases in the asylums during the year.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

49. *Savings Bank.*—A new branch was opened during the year at Fellowship, on the west coast of Demerara, and there are now three branches in the country districts, *i.e.*, at Suddie, Belfield, and Fellowship, in addition to the two principal banks in the City of Georgetown and Town of New Amsterdam.

At the close of the year there were 13,512 depositors in the Government Savings Banks or 488 less than on the 31st December 1887, but the amount standing to their credit was slightly larger, being 204,347*l.*

The deposits and withdrawals during the year were respectively 115,258*l.* and 117,702*l.*, and interest amounting to 5,504*l.* was carried to the credit of depositors during the year.

The funds of the bank are invested in Government securities and on open loan to the Colony, and revenue for the year was 6,770*l.*

The creation of Post Office Savings Banks throughout the Colony continued to receive attention during the year, and at the time of writing legislative measures for their establishment have been introduced.

50. *Friendly Societies.*—At the close of the year there were five friendly societies, four of which were established for charitable purposes with members ranging from 35 to 478, and invested funds from 26*l.* to 837*l.*

One company appears to have ceased operations during the year, and no new societies have been incorporated, pending an amendment of the Friendly Societies' Ordinance.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

51. Meteorological observations were taken throughout the year at the Botanic Gardens in Georgetown.

The total rainfall for the year was 74·14 inches, the heaviest monthly fall being 15·65 in May, and the lowest ·46 in September.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

52. *Postal.*—The Postal Department consists of the General Post Office in Georgetown, 60 district post offices, of which 23 are money order offices, and seven travelling offices.

The number of letters, newpapers, &c. posted during the year is estimated at 1,240,065, as compared with 1,199,798 in 1887. There was a further increase in the money order business, both inland and foreign, the total value of inland orders issued being 13,137*l.* compared with 11,551*l.* in 1887 and foreign orders 44,051*l.* compared with 38,868*l.* The revenue from the foreign parcel post for the year was 190*l.* and the sum collected as customs dues 331*l.* compared with 155*l.* and 251*l.* respectively in 1887.

53. *Telegraph.*—The Government telegraph extends along the cultivated coast of the Colony for a distance of 260 miles and through the settlements on the banks of the rivers.

There was a slight increase in the telegraph receipts during the year, the figures being 2,442*l.* in 1888 and 2,414*l.* in 1887.

A telephone exchange is attached to the General Post Office in Georgetown. There are 37 subscribers, and 32 miles of wire.

RAILWAY, CANALS, AND ROADS.

54. *Railway.*—Five miles of railway were laid down in 1848 between Georgetown and the village of Plaisance on the east coast. In 1864 the line was extended to Mahaica, a distance of 20 miles from Georgetown, since when there has been no further extension. The line was constructed and is still owned by the Demerara Railway Company.

55. *Canals.*—The principal canals are those locally known as Nos. 1, 2, and 3 on the Demerara River. They serve as waterways for the estates on their banks, most of which are now abandoned, but when the polder works on Canals 1 and 2 are completed, it is hoped that the district will become once more cultivated and prosperous.

GENERAL REMARKS.

56. On the whole the Colony appears to be emerging from the period of depression caused by the depreciation in value of its staple product; trade has received an impetus from the rise in the price of sugar and from the gold industry. Other industries also are being started, and employment is easily obtained by the labouring classes.

No epidemic visited the Colony and the general health was good. There were less calls on the accommodation of the public hospitals, as the people availed themselves of treatment as out-patients in much larger numbers.

The criminal statistics compare not unfavourably with previous years. About 17 per cent. of convictions are of old offenders.

(Signed) CHARLES T. COX,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
20th July 1889.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 106.

BRITISH GUIANA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report, No. 72.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.–36.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to H er Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1888
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	,,

No. 106.

BRITISH GUIANA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 72.]

LORD GORMANSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
MY LORD, June 18, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1889, by Mr. Charles T. Cox, Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the Results shown in the BLUE BOOK for 1889.

TAXES, DUTIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

1. An important change took place during the year in the mode of keeping the Colony's accounts. The year of taxation had hitherto run from 1st July to 30th June, while the year of expenditure ran from 1st January to 31st December. It having been decided to bring these two periods into accord, the financial year, both of taxation and expenditure, was fixed to begin on the 1st of April and end on 31st of March. In deciding on these dates consideration was paid to the advantage of being able to show in the Colony's accounts for any one year the whole of the immigration expenditure in respect of that year, an advantage not possible to secure under the old system. It will be remembered that towards the close of 1888 the Combined Court passed an ad-interim estimate of expenditure for the first three months of 1889. Early in 1889 the court met again and passed the annual estimate for the new financial year, April 1889 to March 1890. The Tax Ordinance and Duties of Customs Ordinance then running would expire on 30th June, and the Combined Court accordingly met again in May and extended the operation of these two ordinances to the 31st March 1890. The occasion was not considered a favourable one for making any change in the customs duties or inland taxes, and all important discussion was accordingly postponed until the court should meet in the early part of 1890.

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Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The alteration in the Colony's accounts caused by the change in the financial year noted above, has made it impracticable to publish the usual comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the year 1888 and 1889. The returns which are published, however, show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the 15 months ended 31st March 1889, and, separately, the revenue and expenditure for the remaining nine months of the year. It may be stated, however, that the revenue of the Colony showed a gratifying increase under all the principal heads during the year. The excess of revenue over expenditure for the last nine months of 1889, amounting to 52,000*l.*, was of course not maintained, as many heavy items of expenditure fall into the last quarter of the financial year. As a matter of fact, when the accounts of the Colony are made up to 31st March 1890, a surplus of about 15,000*l.* is anticipated.

Local Revenues.

3. *Georgetown.*—The municipal revenue and expenditure for the year were respectively 47,609*l.*, including the surplus from 1888, and 49,249*l.*, both being in excess of the revenue and expenditure of 1888 when the amounts were 45,868*l.* and 45,020*l.* The house tax remained at the rate of 2 per cent. on appraised value.

The 100 acres of land purchased by the city in 1887 with a loan from the Government and incorporated within the municipal limits by proclamation dated 18th October 1888, have been laid out in building lots, intersected with streets. Many of the lots have been sold, but no building was done during the year.

4. *New Amsterdam.*—The municipal revenue and expenditure for the year were respectively 8,953*l.* and 8,618*l.*, being an increase in both revenue and expenditure of respectively 1,049*l.* and 521*l.* compared with the previous year. There was no change in the town taxes.

5. *Villages.*—Eighteen incorporated villages were rated at a uniform rate of 2 per cent. on house and landed property, and the revenue derived therefrom amounted to 3,375*l.*, being less than in 1888, when the revenue was 3,570*l.*

The expenditure on 19 villages for 12 months ended 31st March 1890, amounted to 7,528*l.*, of which 5,294*l.* was spent on drainage, roads, dams, and bridges. The total expenditure in the previous year was 8,096*l.*

The liabilities of the villages on 31st December 1889 in respect of the Government loan amounted to 16,342*l.* compared with 16,866*l.* on 31st December 1888.

PUBLIC DEBT.

6. Bonds to the extent of 43,600*l.* were issued on the 1st July, being the second issue under Ordinance 14 of 1887, which authorises the raising of 520,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for public purposes. The total amount raised under this Ordinance is now 118,600*l.* The public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged stood on the 31st December 1888 at 560,300*l.*

No bonds matured during the year.

The sinking fund has been further increased by 9,041*l.*, and on the 31st December stood at 64,145*l.*, being full provision to that date for the redemption of bonds in terms of the various Ordinances.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue appear as follows at the close of the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For immigration - - - -	120,000	0	0
To city of Georgetown - -	8,071	7	1
To town of New Amsterdam - -	1,111	2	1½
To Commissioners of Vlissengen -	47,916	13	4
Total guaranteed loans - -	177,099	2	6½
Amount for which general revenue is directly pledged - - - - -	560,300	0	0
Grand total, 1889 - -	737,399	2	6½
„ 1888 - -	698,251	9	5½
Increase - - -	39,147	13	1

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

7. The expenditure of the Colony for military purposes was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial troops - - - -	728	14	11
Georgetown militia - - - -	1,257	12	7½
British Guiana Volunteer Force - -	189	7	1½
	2,175	14	8
The Imperial expenditure was - -	6,902	0	1
Total - - -	9,077	14	9

or 152*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* less than in the preceding year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8. The expenditure on public works for the 12 months ended 31st March 1890, defrayed from current revenue was 36,206*l.*, being 9,522*l.* more than the expenditure during the preceding year. No new works of any importance were taken in hand, but the principal items of expenditure were on almshouse, magistrate's houses, Colony houses, hospital, medical officers houses, sea defences, and Government buildings in the north-west district of the Colony, chargeable to loan account.

LEGISLATION.

9. Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year. They are as follows:—

No. 1.—"To amend the Law relating to the summary Jurisdiction of stipendiary magistrates."

No. 2.—"To remove doubts as to the acre money payable in respect to the back lands of plantations."

No. 3.—"To authorise the payment of a special pension to George Walker, Esquire."

No. 4.—"To amend the law relating to the importation and sale of opium."

The want of such an Ordinance has been much felt, and the present law has received long and careful consideration. As it only came into force on 1st of January 1890, the result of its operation cannot yet be stated.

No. 5.—"To make special provision with regard to the unlawful possession of gold, and to amend 'the Mining Ordinance, 1887.'"

This Ordinance confers the powers of search on certain gold officers. Its provisions are stringent, but were necessary for the protection of those whose capital was embarked in the gold industry.

No. 6.—"To make provision for the appointment of special constables and for the better preservation of the peace."

This Ordinance was passed during the riots of March 1889, as the existing law relating to special constables was found inadequate to meet the emergencies of the case.

No. 7.—"To amend the 'Colonial Duties of Customs Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 8.—"To authorise the payment of a special pension to Dr. Charles Edward Macnamara."

No. 9.—"To continue in force for a limited period, Ordinance No. 6, of 1888, entitled 'Colonial Taxes.'"

No. 10.—"To continue in force for a limited period, Ordinance No. 7, of 1888, entitled 'Colonial Duties of Customs.'"

No. 11.—"To make provision for the more effectual suppression of riotous disturbances and other breaches of the public peace."

No. 12.—"To consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Government Savings Bank and the branches thereof, and to provide for the establishment and working of Savings Banks in connexion with the Post Office.

No. 13.—"To consolidate and amend the laws relating to the conservation and distribution of the waters of the Boerasirie."

No. 14.—"To facilitate the acquisition of land required for public purposes."

This Ordinance was passed to cure a technical defect in the previous law, the main provisions of which remain unchanged.

No. 15.—"To provide for the maintenance of the Civil List establishment of this Colony."

No. 16.—"To provide for the maintenance of the Ministers of the Christian Religion in this Colony."

No. 17.—"To amend the Police Ordinance, 1883, in respect to the prosecution of offences by the Police Force."

The effect of this enactment is to relieve the Police Force of the obligations of prosecuting in cases of a more or less personal or private nature when the complainant is able to bear the expenses.

No. 18.—"To regulate the importation, storage carriage, and sale of gunpowder and other explosive substances."

PROCLAMATIONS.

10. The proclamations issued during the year related for the most part to the ordinary business of the Colony, and there are none calling for special notice, except perhaps those issued on the 20th March, in connexion with the riots in Georgetown, which took place on the 19th and 20th of that month.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

11. No change was made in the Political Franchise or the constitution of the Colony during the year 1889, but a change has been determined on by the Imperial and Colonial Governments and will probably be made during the present year.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

12. The Court of Policy sat at the usual intervals during the year.

The Combined Court met in March, to vote the Supplies required for the ensuing financial year, which in future will run from 1st April to 31st March, and a special session was summoned

in October, to consider the question of the renewal of the Civil List and Clergy List, which expired on the 31st December. The Clergy List was renewed for a further period of seven years, but in view of the proposed alterations in the Constitution of the Colony, the Court agreed to the proposal of the Government that the Civil List should be renewed for one year only, so as to permit of its conditions being discussed concurrently with the provisions of the new Constitution.

While Mr. Villiers acted as Government Secretary, *i.e.*, from 1st January to 8th March, and from 23rd November to 13th December, Mr. Chas. Piercy Austin sat as an Official Member of the Court, and during Mr. Alexander's absence, *i.e.*, from 1st January to 8th March, Mr. Charles B. King, the Acting Immigration Agent-General, sat as an Official Member.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

13. *Deaths.*—Six public officers receiving salaries of over 100*l.* died during the year, all while in the Colony, viz.:—

Dr. S. Leary	aged	55	Government Medical Officer.
The Rev. T. R. Dempster.	,,	56	Curate.
Mr. E. Francis	,,	38	Government Analytical Chemist.
Capt. M. McLeod	,,	56	Provost Marshal.
Mr. J. A. Williams	,,	36	Assistant Master, Queen's College.
,, T. Fitzgerald	,,	47	Stipendiary Magistrate.

Appointments, Promotions, &c.—Amongst the more important changes were the following:—

His Excellency Viscount Gormanston, K.C.M.G., returned from leave of absence on the 8th March, and administered the Government throughout the year, with the exception of a short absence of three weeks during November and December. During Lord Gormanston's absence Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., administered the Government, and the Hon. Francis Villiers, C.M.G., acted as Government Secretary.

Mr. George Melville, while absent on leave was appointed Colonial Secretary of British Honduras, and did not return to the Colony. The appointment of Assistant Government Secretary, which he vacated, has not yet been filled.

Mr. Nicholas Cox, Inspector General of Police, retired on pension and was succeeded by Colonel the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton.

Mr. W. H. Hutchens, Colonial Civil Engineer, went home on three months leave of absence and left the service of the Colony at the expiration of his leave. He was succeeded

by Mr. Lionel Payne Gallwey, the Superintendent of Public Works in Barbados.

Mr. J. B. Harrison, M.A., F.C.S., F.G.S., F.I.C., was appointed to the office of Government Analytical Chemist, in succession to the late Mr. Francis.

An exchange of offices was effected between Captain Fortescue, the Inspector of Prisons, and Captain Baker, Inspector General of Police in Trinidad.

The Rev. E. Sloman, M.A., was appointed to the Rectory of St. Patrick's, Berbice, in the room of the Rev. G. H. Butt, who had retired.

SECURITY.

15. At the annual inspection of securities it was found that 153 officers had given security for the due discharge of their duties, and the sums for which they gave security ranged from 50*l.* to 2,084*l.*

Only five officers remained of those who prior to the establishment of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund executed the usual security bonds, and who consequently do not subscribe to the fund.

The receipts of the fund for the year ended 30th September 1889 were 485*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and the total amount at credit on that date was 3,252*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* The sums guaranteed by the fund amounted at the close of that period to 49,102*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

PENSIONS.

16. The pension list of 1889 contains the names of 57 pensioners, an increase of three over the previous year.

The actual changes consisted of an addition of eight pensioners, with pensions aggregating 1,744*l.*, less five pensioners who died and whose pensions aggregated 1,182*l.*

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

17. This fund is formed from abatements of 4 per cent. from the salaries of all public officers receiving 100*l.* a year and upwards, and from interest on moneys invested. The receipts in 1889 amounted to 9,896*l.*, and the pensions paid to 8,996*l.* The capital of the fund on 31st December 1889 was 59,890*l.* There were 119 pensioners on the fund at the close of the year, eight having been added during the year and an equal number of pensions having lapsed through death, remarriage, or coming of age. There were 391 contributors to the Fund on the 31st December, of whom 248 were married. The Fund has been in existence for 16 years and its condition is now under the consideration of an Actuary.

POPULATION.

18. The population of the Colony is estimated to have increased from 278,477 on 31st December 1888 to 282,066 on 31st December 1889.

There was an excess of immigration over emigration of 1,343, East Indian labourers, and an excess of births over deaths of 2,246.

IMMIGRATION.

19. The immigration into the Colony from Calcutta during the year consisted of 3,510 souls, equal to 2,990 statute adults, about one-fourth more than the number introduced in 1888.

1,799 statute adults returned to India after serving their terms of indenture, being 65 in excess of those who returned in 1888. They took with them savings amounting to 19,463*l.* in money, and 3,895*l.* in jewellery, as against 16,452*l.* and 3,354*l.* respectively in 1888.

The amount remitted by immigrants in the Colony to their relatives and friends in India continues to increase year by year, having risen from 1,557*l.* in 1886 to 4,840*l.* in 1888.

The total Indian immigrant population of the Colony on 31st December 1889 was estimated at 106,236, or 2,387 more than on the same date in the previous year. Of these 75,032 were resident on the plantations, 17,283 being indentured, 39,106 unindentured, and 18,643 children.

At the close of the year a sum of 106,796*l.* stood at the credit of Indian immigrant depositors in the Government Savings Banks; the corresponding sum in the preceding year being 82,987*l.*

EDUCATION.

20. *Queen's College.*— Seventy-nine students were in this Institution on 31st December 1889, an increase of five on the previous year. At the Cambridge Local Examination held in December 11 students were successful, and the Guiana Scholarship was awarded to one of these, who obtained first-class senior honours with distinction in five subjects.

21. *Elementary Schools.*—Government aid was granted to 163 schools, an increase of four schools over the previous year. Their distribution remained the same, 25 being in Georgetown, six in New Amsterdam, and the remainder being scattered through the country districts.

The regulations for grants-in-aid to primary schools underwent revision during the year, and a new code was passed, to come into force on the 1st April 1890. Amongst the objects to be attained by the new regulations will be a reduction in the number of small but expensive schools, the restoration of certificate salaries, raising the standard of education, and securing nine-tenths of the grant to the teachers.

SCHOOL FOR VAGRANT BOYS AND YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

22. There were 147 boys in the school at the close of the year, four less than in 1888.

Sixty-five acres of land were in cultivation, and the labour of the boys yielded return of 432*l.* from the sale of provisions, &c.

The cost of the institution was 1,028*l.* exclusive of salaries.

REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

23. At the close of the year there were 21 inmates in this institution which was only opened on 2nd July 1888. Amongst the better behaved girls steady progress was made during the year in education, needlework, &c., &c.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

24. *Value of Imports.*—The imports of 1889 were valued at 1,803,776*l.*, showing an increase of 217,721*l.* compared with the imports of 1888.

Articles of Food.—The following comparative statement shows the principal articles of food imported during 1888 and 1889 :—

Statement of the Principal Articles of Food imported during the Years 1888 *and* 1889.

	1888.		1889.		Quantity, 1889.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£		£		
Beef, pickled, brls. -	5,670	12,116	10,336	24,209	4,666	—
Bread, lbs. - -	627,480	5,969	236,614	3,527	—	390,866
Butter, lbs. - -	590,122	22,037	516,327	18,869	—	73,795
Corn and pulse, bush. -	128,408	28,451	137,395	25,627	8,987	—
Oat and cornmeal, lbs. -	1,433,696	5,324	1,272,872	4,073	—	160,824
Fish, dried, quint. -	71,695	59,344	80,371	62,047	8,676	—
Flour, brls. - -	147,946	112,505	165,939	136,899	17,993	—
Lard, lbs. - - -	404,934	7,260	594,447	8,943	189,513	—
Onions, lbs. - -	1,970,090	4,717	2,391,266	6,086	421,176	—
Pork, brls. - - -	14,885	43,074	22,462	56,889	7,577	—
Rice, lbs. - - -	48,619,016	209,577	46,930,392	192,065	—	1,688,624

25. *Value of Exports.*—The value of the exports in 1889 was 2,471,200*l.*, being 466,467*l.* more than in 1888, and nearly 9*l.* per head of the population.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1888 and 1889 :—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the Years 1888 *and* 1889, *showing the Increase or Decrease in* 1889 *in each Description of Export.*

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1889.	Decrease in 1889.
	1888.	1889.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar - - -	1,606,690 10 3½	1,914,143 19 9	307,453 9 5½	—
Rum - - -	93,118 11 1	165,584 0 6½	72,465 9 5½	—
Molasses - - -	73,604 8 0	66,020 6 9	—	7,584 1 3
Gold - - -	55,566 8 11½	109,234 7 8½	53,667 18 9	—
Timber - - -	13,597 12 5½	18,978 11 10½	5,380 19 5	—
Charcoal - - -	8,369 18 4	7,185 8 10	—	1,184 9 6
Gum, Balata - -	14,068 13 2½	15,651 19 11½	1,583 6 9	—
„ other - -	479 5 11½	274 16 2½	—	204 9 9
Shingles - - -	2,184 0 4½	2,574 12 3½	390 11 11	—
Hides - - -	2,445 19 7½	3,164 11 8	718 12 0½	—
Cocoanuts - - -	563 5 11½	420 12 5	—	142 13 6½
Bird skins and feathers -	189 3 4	100 0 0	—	89 3 4
Plants - - -	16 7 10	71 9 0	55 1 2	—
Cocoa - - -	0 8 2	129 13 9	129 5 7	—
Isinglass - - -	407 4 9	313 19 6	—	93 5 3
Cattle and live stock -	41 5 0	1,161 7 7	1,120 2 7	—
Bread—biscuits, &c. -	927 10 5	1,192 18 2½	265 7 9½	—
Cassava starch - -	102 15 7½	478 6 8	375 11 0½	—
Firewood - - -	186 5 4	196 14 5½	10 9 1½	—
Fibre - - -	190 1 9	87 9 1	—	102 12 8
Arrowroot - - -	25 0 0	95 4 2	70 4 2	—
Plantains and plantain suckers - - -	259 11 8	189 5 0	—	70 6 8
Corn and pulse - -	361 19 4	514 3 1	152 3 9	—
Coffee - - -	—	1 13 4	1 13 4	—
Miscellaneous - -	3,324 8 1	2,375 8 9½	—	948 19 3½
Total Colonial produce -	1,876,720 15 6½	2,310,141 0 7½	443,840 6 4	10,420 1 3
Total foreign produce -	148,012 4 7½	161,058 15 5½	—	—
Total exports - -	2,024,733 0 2	2,471,199 16 1	—	—
Net increase Colonial produce in 1889 -	—	—	433,420 5 1	—
Net increase foreign produce in 1889 -	—	—	13,046 10 10	—
	2,024,733 0 2	2,471,199 16 1	446,466 15 11	—

26. *Direction of Trade.*—The following comparative statement shows the direction and value of the trade of the Colony in 1888 and 1889:—

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	918,114	1,051,018	1,003,306	1,317,251
United States - - - -	322,342	401,471	773,682	882,806
British North America - -	84,741	56,336	30,427	42,180
British West Indies - - -	54,947	67,733	44,208	59,953
Bermuda - - - - -	846	77	2,709	3,921
India - - - - - -	146,984	171,359	1,002	1,102
Foreign countries other than United States - - - - -	57,579	55,226	168,707	163,987
African Possessions - - -	502	516	692	—
Total - -	1,586,055	1,803,776	2,024,733	2,471,200

27. The following figures show a slight interruption of the hitherto steady diversion of the export trade from the United Kingdom to the United States:—

Exports.

	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
United Kingdom, per cent. of total exports - - - -	71·	58·	52·	49·	53·
United States, per cent. of total exports - - - -	17·	30·	37·	38·	35·

SHIPPING, 1889.

28. *Vessels.*—The number of vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, during the year was as follows:—

	Ports.	Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown - -	196	154,727	7,241	196	154,561	7,240
	New Amsterdam -	1	125	14	11	8,175	236
	Total - -	197	154,852	7,255	207	162,736	7,476
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown - - -	685	161,713	5,844	666	151,490	5,616
	New Amsterdam - -	34	7,737	224	23	4,879	142
	Total - -	719	169,450	6,068	689	156,369	5,758
	Total steam and sailing vessels - - -	916	324,302	13,323	896	319,105	13,234

The following comparative table shows a slight increase in the number of vessels entering the ports of the Colony during the year:—

—	Vessels.	1888.		1889.		Increase, 1889.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered.	Steam vessels - -	180	137,897	197	154,852	17	16,955
	Sailing do. - -	666	138,807	719	169,450	53	30,643
	Totals - -	846	276,704	916	324,302	70	47,598
Cleared.	Steam vessels - -	186	141,687	207	162,736	21	21,049
	Sailing do. - -	657	139,883	689	156,369	32	16,486
	Totals - -	843	281,570	896	319,105	53	37,535

AGRICULTURE AND MINOR INDUSTRIES.

29. *Sugar Industry.*—The area of land in sugar cultivation according to returns furnished up to 30th June 1889 was 78,271 acres, an increase of 1,646 acres over the previous year. 4,261 acres were in plantains, and the remaining land occupied by the sugar plantations, but uncultivated, amounted to 77,154.

The increase in the value of the staple product of the Colony noted last year has been maintained. The average price obtained for vacuum pan sugar during the year was 15*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.* a hogshead having risen from 11*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* a hogshead in 1886.

The exports during the year were:—

——	——	Value.
		£
Sugar - - - -	128,430 hhds.	1,914,143
Rum - - - -	18,093 puns.	165,584
Molasses - - - -	22,782 casks	66,020

The quantities and value of these exports during 1888 are given for comparison:—

——	——	Value.
		£
Sugar - - - -	120,135 hhds.	1,606,690
Rum - - - -	14,073 puns.	93,118
Molasses - - - -	26,043 casks	73,604

30. *Minor Industries.*—As shown by the table given in paragraph 25, there has been an increase in the export of timber, shingles, hides, biscuits and crackers, cattle and live-stock, cassava starch, arrowroot, corn, and other minor exports, while the only falling off of any importance has been in charcoal.

The Ballata Industry has maintained the prominence it acquired in 1888. The exports have slightly increased, and it affords employment to a large number of labourers.

The prices of market articles remained much the same, and there was no change calling for special comment.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

31. The gold industry advances rapidly the export being double that of 1888. The actual figures are, 14,570 oz., value 55,566, in 1888, and 29,327 oz., value 109,234*l.* in 1889. The whole of this has been taken from placers; quartz mining has not yet been commenced, although several locations have been applied for.

No new manufactures of any importance have been started during the year.

GRANTS OF LAND.

32. The woodcutting business progressed considerably during the year, 45 woodcutting licenses having been issued for a total acreage of 15,900 acres, as against 28 licenses for an acreage of 10,926 during 1888.

The timber exported amounted to 296,151 cubic feet, valued at 18,978*l.*, as compared with 193,541 cubic feet, valued at 13,597*l.* in 1888.

Eighteen grants for rice-growing purposes were issued during the year, as against 19 during the previous year. The grants are only for one year, so that these figures do not point to any great extension of that industry. These grants, however, comprise 268 acres as against 188 in 1888.

The regulations relating to the grant of crown lands were thoroughly revised during the year, and new regulations passed shortly after the close of the year. The chief objects of the new regulations are to simplify the procedure for the acquisition of crown lands, to lessen the cost, and generally to make them more accessible and open to development.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

33. *Police Reports.*—There was a slight decrease in these reports, the numbers being 9,731 compared with 9,938 in 1888.

Apprehensions and Summonses.—The statistics for the last three years are as follows:—

	1887.	1888.	1889.
Convicted - - - -	10,389	11,191	11,273
Discharged - - - -	7,053	6,454	7,311
Acquitted - - - -	4,616	5,292	5,008
Sent to higher courts - - -	336	397	45
Total - - -	22,394	23,334	23,637

34. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 11,273, as compared with 11,191 in 1888 and 11,389 in 1887, and in the superior courts the convictions numbered 312, as compared with 329 in 1888 and 243 in 1887.

Offences against the person, prædial larceny, and offences against masters and servants' acts exhibit a decrease, while offences against property other than prædial larceny, and miscellaneous offences exhibit an increase.

The per-centage of the five following forms of punishment by magistrates to the total number punished is as follows:—

Punishment.	1888.	1889.
Fine - - - - - -	52·39	57·24
Peremptory imprisonment - - -	11·91	9·82
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	32·26	28·86
Whipping - - - - -	1·43	1·63
Bound over with or without sureties - -	2·01	2·45

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

35. The number of prisoners committed for the purpose of penal imprisonment was 3,529, and 1,470 were committed for safety till trial or for want of security.

The number of re-convictions were, once, 590, twice, 199, and thrice or more, 59.

There were 1,099 admissions to prison hospitals and 21 deaths, as compared with the year before, in which there were 1,132 admissions to hospital and 8 deaths. The daily average on the sick list was 27, two more than in 1888.

Whipping was inflicted 8 times for offences within the prison walls as compared with 14 times in 1888. The birch is chiefly used. The other punishments inflicted on prisoners by the prison authorities numbered 2,180 in 1889 and 2,476 in 1888.

HOSPITALS.

36. *Admissions.*—There were 630 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year, a decrease of 104 on the number at the same time of the year 1888. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 7,084, as compared with 6,939 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 1,912, as compared with 2,437 in 1888. At the commencement of the year there were 109 patients in hospital compared with 104 at the commencement of 1888.

Forty-two patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 786 were admitted, as compared with 1,119 in the previous year; while in the free hospital at Massaruni there was one patient on the 1st January and 121 admissions during the year, an increase of 33 as compared with the previous year.

37. *Out-patients.*—38,082 out-patients—an increase of 1,768 on the previous year—were treated at the public hospital in Georgetown; 6,276 as compared with 5,654 at the hospital at New Amsterdam; 4,147 at Suddie; and 532 at Massaruni.

38. *Discharges.*—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	2,809	1,134	302	41
Relieved - - -	1,501	461	391	48
Not improved - -	1,813	117	—	16
Total - -	6,123	1,712	693	105

39. *Deaths.*—There were 935 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 1,000 in 1888.

In the New Amsterdam Hospital there were 198 deaths as against 222 in 1888; in the Hospital, Essequebo, 90 as against 115, in the previous year; and at Massaruni Hospital 15 as against 13 in 1888.

40. *Diseases.*—The following is a comparative table of the diseases treated at the four public hospitals and of the deaths from such diseases for the years 1888 and 1889 :—

Diseases.	Georgetown.				New Amsterdam.			
	1889.		1888.		1889.		1888.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	794	23	2,159	430	803	46	1,302	121
Constitutional - -	1,646	349	3,650	520	77	32	42	21
Local - - -	3,523	524			950	90	984	60
Developmental - -	253	18	193	31	37	25	55	18
By violence, &c. - -	314	18	359	9	112	2	158	2
Other diseases - -	200	—	284	6	—	—	—	—
Total - -	* 6,730	*932	6,645	996	1,912	195	2,541	222

continued.)

Diseases.	Suddie.				Massaruni.			
	1889.		1888.		1889.		1888.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	315	18	439	34	58	9	40	7
Constitutional - -	77	23	84	18	2	0	3	1
Local - - - -	364	45	519	53	28	4	22	3
Developmental - -	50	4	72	10	10	2	9	1
By violence, &c. - -	22	0	34	—	23	—	87	1
Other diseases - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	828	90	1,148	115	121	15	161	13

* These figures do not include 384 cases and three deaths amongst seamen.

The cases treated in all the public hospitals amounted in the aggregate to 10,975 and the deaths to 1,235, showing a mortality of 11·03 per cent. of cases treated.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

41. *Admissions.*—The admissions during the year numbered 175 (116 males and 59 females). The daily average number was 639, an increase of 39 over 1888.

42. *Discharges.*—45 inmates were discharged as cured, and 18 as relieved.

43. *Deaths.*—There were 106 deaths during the year, (54 males and 52 females), an increase of 30 over 1888.

In 34 cases the patient suffered from "Bright's" disease.

44. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at the close of the year were classified as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Maniacal and dangerous - - -	111	52
Quiet chronic - - - -	253	105
Melancholy and suicidal - - -	37	19
Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	27	30

LEPER ASYLUM.

48. The accommodation for males consists of three two-storey buildings raised on brick pillars and twenty huts. The females occupy six one-story buildings on pillars and one cottage.

At the close of the year there were at the asylums 338 inmates (269 males and 69 females). 74 males and 8 females were admitted during the year. 63 inmates died, the mortality being 13 per cent. of the cases admitted in the asylum during the year, and 2 per cent. higher than during 1888.

With the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies it is proposed to establish a leper community on one of the islands in the Essequebo River, and steps are being taken to ascertain which of the islands is most suitable for the purpose.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

46. The transactions of the Government Savings Banks show a gratifying increase at all the branches. At the close of the year there were 14,899 depositors as compared with 13,512 a year before, and the amount standing to their credit was 227,286*l.* an increase of 23,000*l.*

The deposits and withdrawals amounted respectively to 142,231*l.* and 125,225*l.*, and interest carried to the credit of depositors, to 5,909*l.*

The funds of the bank are invested in Government securities, and on open loan to the Colony.

The establishment of Post Office Savings Banks was effected during the year. On the 2nd December six banks were opened at what were considered the most suitable district post offices. At the close of the month there were 136 depositors and the amount

of deposits was 575*l.*: but at the time of writing these figures have largely increased and the experiment appears to be an assured success.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

47. Meteorological observations were taken throughout the year at the Botanic Gardens under the careful superintendence of Mr. Jenman.

The total rainfall for the year was unusually high, being 123·52 inches or 49·38 in excess of the rainfall of 1888. The heaviest monthly fall was 23·23 inches in June, and the lowest 1·88 inches in October.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

48. The Postal Department consists of the General Post Office in Georgetown, 60 district post offices, and seven travelling post offices. Of the former 25 are money order offices.

The number of letters, newpapers, &c. posted during the year is estimated at 1,207,656, a decrease of 32,409 as compared with 1888. The money order business, both inland and foreign, increased, the amounts being: inland, 16,275*l.*, as against 13,137*l.*, and foreign, 47,699*l.* as against 44,051*l.* The parcel post also was more largely used, the revenue and customs duties collected being respectively 233*l.* and 459*l.*, as against 190*l.*, and 331*l.*

49. *Telegraphs.*—The Government telegraph extends along the cultivated coast of the Colony for a distance of 260 miles and through the settlements on the banks of the rivers. There was a decrease in the telegraph receipts during the year, the amount being 2,276*l.* as against 2,442*l.* in 1888.

50. *Telephone.*—The telephone service fell into bad order during the year, and most of the subscribers discontinued their support. A new lot of instruments and wire have been procured and at the time of writing the service is being rapidly placed in a state of thorough efficiency. There are 200 subscribers, including offices and private houses, and arrangements have been made for an all-night service.

RAILWAY, CANALS, AND ROADS.

51. *Railway.*—Five miles of railway were laid down in 1848 between Georgetown and the village of Plaisance on the east coast. In 1864 the line was extended to Mahaica, a distance of 20 miles from Georgetown, since when there has been no further extension. The line was constructed and is still owned by the Demerara Railway Company. The extension of railway communication from Mahaica to the bank of the Berbice River is again receiving much attention, and the Combined Court has pledged itself to provide the necessary subsidy for that line, and also for a line of about 14 miles on the west coast of Demerara.

52. *Canals.*—The principal canals are those locally known as Nos. 1, 2, and 3 on the Demerara River. They serve as waterways for the estates on their banks, most of which are now abandoned. The polder works on Canals 1 and 2 which were designed to drain the district and make the lands suitable for cultivation by small capitalists, have progressed considerably, but a further grant of money will be necessary if the original scheme is to be carried out.

GENERAL REMARKS.

53. The progress of the Colony during the year 1889 was most satisfactory. The revenue, imports, and exports all show a gratifying increase, and employment for the labouring classes was plentiful, indeed in some districts the want of labour during the busy season was severely felt.

No epidemic visited the Colony, and the hospital and criminal statistics compare not unfavourably with previous years.

The following extract from Mr. im Thurn's Report for 1889 shows the progress which has been made in the development of the north-western district of the Colony, which has become sufficiently populous in 1888 to be brought under the machinery of the Civil Government.

"Remembering the desolate, uninhabited, unused, indeed unknown condition of this latter sub-district when I first visited it, in February 1883, and now seeing its present condition at the close of the year 1889, I find it hard to realise that these are but two aspects of the same place. Then, as I passed down the Barima River, through about 120 miles of its lower course, I saw no house or sign of habitation, no human being until we came to the sand-bank at the sea, on which two or three men from the neighbouring Amakooroo River were temporarily camped, for the purpose of fishing. In the Amakooroo itself, on the English side, there was not a house to be seen, though there were two or three cultivated plots, the owners of which resided on the opposite shore. In Arooka there were but two settlers. In the Waini there were but two. In the sub-district the entire number of settlements, if we restrict the term only to such cultivated plots as had sufficient drainage, and on which the farmers lived, amounted therefore to but four. Moreover, at that time no travellers moved on the rivers, if we except the half dozen of settlers, and two or three hucksters trading with Indians.

"Now, clustered about the Barima end of the Morawhanna, in the Arooka and the Amakooroo, and high up the Waini, about the mouth of the Baramanni, are some fifty flourishing settlements, to increase the number of which there are almost daily eager applicants, deterred only by the present unsettled condition of the Crown Lands regulations.* Boats cross and recross, and pass up and down the rivers at very frequent intervals, and through

* Since passed.

BRITISH GUIANA.

the mouth of the Baramanni, large parties of gold diggers pass almost daily into the Waini. Furthermore, as I explained in detail in my report at the end of last year, a chain of police stations, strengthened since that report was written, stretches across the sub-district, commanding all the highway."

On the 19th and 20th of March, Georgetown was unfortunately the scene of riots, on the part of the black population, the immediate origin of which was an assault committed on a black boy by a Portuguese man in the city market. The mob proceeded to attack the small shops kept by the Portuguese in the town and its neighbourhood, and wrecked a large number. Commissioners appointed by the Governor assessed the damage done at 8,219*l.*, and this sum was voted by the Combined Court as compensation to the sufferers.

On the 9th October, Mr. Henry Kirke, M.A., and Mr. Charles Lane Payne, Barristers at-Law, were appointed to inquire into rights of parties occupying, or claiming ownership of lands on the banks of the rivers of the Colony or their tributary streams, in order that all such claims should be established or extinguished.

On Mr. Kirke's recent promotion to Jamaica, his place was taken by Mr. R. A. Swan, Barrister-at-Law and Stipendiary Magistrate

The Commissioners have power to take evidence on oath, and it is hoped that their labours will result in terminating all disputes relating to land amongst those who are unable to produce the usual title deeds.

(Signed) CHARLES T. COX,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
20th May 1890.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 71.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 35.)

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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1889.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
21	Bahamas	1887
22	Labuan	,,
23	Malta	,,
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
25	St. Vincent	,,
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falklands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,

No. 71.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Governor Sir R. T. GOLDSWORTHY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Belize,
August 23, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward you herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1888, together with a copy of the Acting Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER TUCKFIELD GOLDSWORTHY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the COLONY of BRITISH HONDURAS for the Year 1888.

Duties.

There was no change in the duties. The sterling value of invoices was reduced into currency at 3*s.* 1*d.* to the dollar, the Treasury rate for the year.

Revenue.

The total revenue for 1888 amounted to $311,719.20 as against $280,139.86 for 1887, being an increase of $31,579.34. The principal increase was on the following items:—

	$
Customs - - -	- 10,614.88
Excise - - - -	- 5,099.85
Land revenue - - -	- 3,340.34
Postal revenue - -	- 4,068.84
Reimbursements - -	- 4,860.37

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to $297,935.92, being $3,637.60 in excess of that of 1887. The new constabulary cost $77,699.03.

60007. Wt. 13155.

Imports.

The value of the imports amounted to $1,479,048 as against $1,097,721 for 1887, being an increase of $381,327. The principal increase was :—

From United Kingdom $207,071, United States $165,462; including $62,885 in specie.

Exports.

The value of the exports amounted to $1,526,115 as against $1,349,709 for 1887, being an increase of $176,406. Of this increase $136,082 was in exports to the United States, chiefly specie and fruit, and $29,082 in value of logwood exported to France. The mahogany exported amounted to 2,664,806 feet only, being 1,526,458 feet less than in 1887. The falling off was owing to the absence of floods to bring the wood out. 310,034 bunches of bananas were exported, being 74,326 in excess of 1887.

Loans.

A further loan of 9,000*l.* sterling for the town and harbour improvements, Belize, was raised by the Crown Agents in London bearing interest at 4½ per cent. The loan was obtained at 101¼.

Public Works.

No new works were undertaken during the year beyond the building of a block house near the northern frontier as an outpost for the constabulary.

Legislation.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed during the year, none of which call for any special remarks. The revised and consolidated laws, brought up to the end of 1887, came into operation on the 15th December.

Military.

The remaining company of Imperial troops was removed from the Colony in May and the Colony is now dependent upon the constabulary force for its defence.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Jerningham, Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from the 20th September to the 24th December, during the absence on leave and on the affairs of the Colony of his Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Usher, district magistrate, acted as treasurer during Mr. McKinney's absence, attending the Quarantine Conference at Demerara as the delegate of this Colony.

Inspector Kershaw was appointed provisionally as Inspector Commandant of the British Honduras Constabulary Force vice Captain Allen resigned.

Mr. Baker was appointed Acting Colonial Engineer vice Mr. Cottrell resigned.

Pensions.

No addition was made to the pension list during the year. Two pensioners died, the Rev. D. Arthur and Mr. Wier.

Savings Bank.

The amount on deposit in the Savings Bank on the 31st December was $40,628.04, being $5,394.26 more than on the same date last year.

Education.

Notwithstanding two new schools were opened during the year, the average daily attendance at all the schools was eight less than in 1887. The total on the registers was 2,580 and the average daily attendance 1,786.

The Rev. J. Jackson, Inspector of Schools, died in December and Mr. Knollys was appointed provisionally inspector.

Currency.

The long vexed question of the currency was temporarily settled by Her Majesty's proclamation which came into force on the 1st January, by which the Guatemalan silver dollar of 900 fineness and 385·80 grains weight was made the standard dollar of the Colony.

Shipping.

Three hundred and forty sailing vessels of a tonnage of 29,945 and 123 steamers of a tonnage of 96,775 entered during the year. Of these, 204 sailing vessels brought cargoes and 136 were in ballast, whilst of the steamers 100 were with cargoes and 23 in ballast.

Three hundred and thirteen sailing vessels of a tonnage of 29,385 cleared; 216 with cargoes and 97 in ballast; whilst of steamers there were 122 with a tonnage of 96,692, 95 clearing with cargoes and 27 in ballast.

Grants of Lands.

Only 12 grants, of an aggregate acreage of 204, were made during the year. There was a large increase in the number of leases, 74 in all, the policy being to lease Crown lands in preference to selling.

Gaols and Criminal Statistics.

These call for no special remarks.

Hospitals.

The health of the Colony was good during the year. The daily average of patients in the Government hospitals was 21·89. This average was higher than usual, owing to the men of the constabulary being treated in the hospitals.

General.

The mail service between Belize and New Orleans was changed to a weekly service in October for an increased subsidy of $4,000 per annum.

During the year a good deal of consideration was given to the question of a railway in the Colony to connect with the railway systems of either Guatemala or Mexico, and the Legislative Council agreed to the offer of a bonus of 60,000*l.* to anyone who would undertake its construction, besides liberal grants of Crown lands.

(Signed) W. J. McKINNEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

20th August 1889.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 77.

HONG KONG.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1889.

[C.—5897.-7.]

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The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
27	Leeward Islands	1887
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,

No. 77.

HONG KONG.

Administrator STEWART to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Hong Kong,
September 2, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1888, and to express my regret that it has not been possible to send it earlier. There has been great pressure of work in the Colonial Secretary's Department, and I trust that your Lordship will on that account be good enough to overlook the delay.

2. The usual summary accompanies it, and beyond a few remarks on some of the more important headings I do not think it necessary to review the year at any considerable length.

3. The steady increase in the revenue, apart from premiums on land sales, is a source of much satisfaction. The increased value of the opium farm is one of the chief causes of the increase, but how far this may extend, and how long it may continue, is a subject of some uncertainty.

4. The steady increase in the revenue is accompanied by an equally steady increase in the expenditure, but the many public works which are urgently required for the development of the Colony will, for years to come, constitute a sufficient justification for the sums which will have to be spent on them. These public works, from causes with which your Lordship is acquainted, have not lately had the attention to which they are legitimately entitled, but when the re-organisation of the Surveyor-General's Department, now under consideration, has been completed, they will be pushed on with all possible energy. It is some satisfaction to think that the special contribution for defence works will soon terminate, and leave our resources available for the prosecution of works which the necessities of an increasing population imperatively demand.

5. Our local statutes were increased by 29 Ordinances during the year. Some of these are of considerable importance. *The Vagrancy Ordinance* will probably require amendment, as there has been much difficulty in fixing under it the responsibility which it was sought to cast upon owners and agents of vessels. It is a measure which cannot be lost sight of. From the peculiar circumstances of the Colony there is a constant tendency to throw upon

us the cost of the repatriation of persons of all nationalities, and, in self-defence, it will be necessary to reduce this cost to its legitimate minimum. Foreign Consuls will assist none of their nationals unless they can produce papers to prove their nationality, and this rule is so rigidly enforced that the care of 99 per cent. of the destitutes arriving in the Colony has hitherto devolved, on mere grounds of humanity, entirely on the Government of the Colony. *The Trees Preservation Ordinance* seems to be serving its purpose, and it is hoped that by means of it the villagers may, in time, be taught to leave untouched that which adds so much to the beauty and the salubrity of the island. I think it may be safely asserted that the *Ordinance for judicial investigations into the causes of Fires* has been a great success. The insurance companies recognise this to the fullest extent. Immediately on its passing into law the number of fires decreased at once, and although prosecutions for arson have not been very successful there can be no doubt that the effect of the measure on the minds of the Chinese community has been most salutary. The *European District Reservation Ordinance* will require some amendment. It is a most necessary measure, but as there has never been any clearly defined Chinese quarter of the city it is most difficult to draw a line which will not inflict some hardship on someone.

6. The Sanitary Board, as re-constituted under the Public Health Ordinance, has not hitherto been of much public utility. The anomaly of placing the house drains under the Board and the public sewers under the Surveyor-General has led to a good deal of friction; but the subject is receiving every attention, and an amendment of the Ordinance is contemplated.

7. The influx of Chinese, leading to a steady increase of population in spite of the restricted area of the Colony, is a subject of great importance and of no little embarrassment. Doubtless the land made available by the Praya reclamation scheme will tend to diminish the difficulty, but the relief from overcrowding will only be temporary, and I think it is clear that, before long, building land will have to be sought for in the interior of the island, and communication established with it by means of tramways. Those residents who have most closely watched the development of Hong Kong believe that its present prosperity is only beginning, and that, at no distant period, every available corner of the island will be covered with dwellings or manufactories. The history of the past few years seems clearly to indicate that this is no mere ideal; but the realisation of it will have to be accompanied by much forethought, to prevent the mistakes of the past from being repeated. A complete survey of the island will have to be made; the land laws will have to be revised; the best means of opening up the interior carefully thought out; and a complete understanding arrived at with the military authorities as to the land which they require for defensive purposes.

8. The advance in education is one of the most gratifying features in the progress of the Colony. There is yet much to be

done, and female education is only in its infancy; but the lines on which the system is moving seem to be correct, and time alone is required to reclaim those portions of the field which remain untouched. We have now four highly efficient public schools, not including the convents, which do so much for the education of girls. Government schools and grant-in-aid schools are penetrating into the outlying villages. The Education Code is working most smoothly, and seldom gives rise to any question which cannot be easily settled.

9. There is a slight decrease in the total tonnage returns, but nothing to call for any special remark. The increase in the number of junks indicates a transfer of some of the trade of the port from foreign to native vessels. Kerosene oil especially, which forms a most important item in the trade of the Colony, is now chiefly exported in junks.

10. The immigration and emigration returns show that the passenger traffic is very large. It is one of the most important items in the trade of the place. I am sorry to say that there are not a few abuses connected with it; but the subject has been engaging the most earnest attention of the Government for some time. Facts have been steadily accumulating. A committee is now considering the question; and, later in the year, a Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council making due provision for the welfare of the emigrant.

11. The admissions into the civil hospital and the small-pox hospital show a steady increase. The deaths in the former, however, were fewer than in 1887; and, as regards the latter, it is to be hoped that the epidemic which occurred was quite exceptional. The subject of the health of the Colony is fully treated by the Colonial surgeon, whose annual report will be forwarded by this mail. The record for the year is by no means favourable, but it is unnecessary to discuss it here, except to say that the very severe outbreak of small-pox contributed largely to the unfavourable result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK STEWART,
Administering the Government

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG. **REPORT** on the **BLUE BOOK** for 1888, presented to the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

1.—TAXATION.

There have been no changes under this head.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue amounted to $1,717,988·67, or excluding premiums from land sales to $1,557,300 · 03; and the expenditure amounted to $1,992,329 · 67, including extraordinary works; excluding these, to $1,461,459 · 64.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Premiums from Land.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure, including Defensive Works.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1884 - -	1,173,071 48	19,695 00	1,254,634 77	340,763 62
1885 - -	1,251,889 70	66,658 50	1,146,103 15	475,147 24
1886 - -	1,367,977 74	34,731 59	1,195,236 81	825,624 84
1887 - -	1,427,485 79	155,238 02	1,278,181 68	744,820 38
1888 - -	1,557,300 03	160,688 64	1,461,459 64	530,870 03

3.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The Chinese inhabitants contributed in 1888, by voluntary assessment among themselves, to the pay of the district watchmen $4,094 · 78, and received from the Government a grant-in-aid of $2,000 · 00.

4.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December 1888 the assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities by $360,649 · 76.*

The surplus assets in :—

	$ c.
1884 were - - -	729,562 02
1885 „ - - -	427,692 42
In 1886 the liabilities exceeded the assets by - - -	191,512 29
In 1887 the surplus assets were -	631,374 08*

* A loan of 200,000*l.* having been raised during 1887 to be paid off on the 1st of March 1907. To provide for the repayment of this loan a sinking fund of 7,072*l.* was established.

5.—PUBLIC DEBT.

No new loan has been raised.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military expenditure (inclusive of the Volunteer Corps) defrayed by the Colony during the last five years has been as follows:—

	Military Contribution, exclusive of Defensive Works, and inclusive of Volunteer Corps.	Defensive Works.
	$ c.	$ c.
1884 - - - -	114,498 78	3,464 64
1885 - - - -	117,337 00	72,564 45
1886 - - - -	124,561 68	217,901 45
1887 - - - -	128,815 63	258,444 28
1888 - - - -	134,594 68	62,115 90

7.—GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Government House.

Government House was maintained in repair, and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure under this head was $25,102·14 for ordinary repairs to buildings, $51,518 for upkeep of the roads and streets; and $62,115·90 for defensive works.

9.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance entitled "The Vaccination Ordinance, 1888."

No. 2.—An Ordinance entitled "The Defences Sketching Prevention Ordinance, 1888."

No. 3.—An Ordinance to amend the Crown Remedies Ordinance, 1875.

No. 4.—An Ordinance for prohibiting the enclosure of Verandahs erected over Crown Lands.

HONG KONG.

No. 5.—An Ordinance entitled "The Official Signatures Fees Ordinance, 1888."

No. 6.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Fritz Adolph Friccius Grobien.

No. 7.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Hillune Loo Ngawk, otherwise Loo Kiu Fung.

No. 8.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Lai Shang, otherwise Lai Chek Kün.

No. 9.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Lai Kit, otherwise Lai Cheuk.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to provide for the preservation of copies of books printed in Hong Kong, and for the registration of such books.

No. 11.—An Ordinance entitled "The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance, 1888."

No. 12.—An Ordinance entitled "The Vagrancy Ordinance, 1888."

No. 13.—An Ordinance entitled "The Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888.

No. 14.—An Ordinance entitled "The Trees Preservation Ordinance, 1888."

No. 15.—An Ordinance entitled "The Rating Ordinance, 1888."

No. 16.—An Ordinance for the reservation of a European district in the City of Victoria.

No. 17.—An Ordinance entitled "The Coroner's abolition Ordinance, 1888."

No. 18.—An Ordinance entitled "The French Mail Steamers Ordinance continuation Ordinance, 1888."

No. 19.—An Ordinance entitled "The German Mail Steamers Ordinance continuation Ordinance, 1888."

No. 20.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of John Wong Chün, otherwise Wong Yiu Shang.

No. 21.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of T'ám Iu Ts'ün, otherwise T'ám Fuk-siu.

No. 22.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Li Ó Mi, otherwise Li Tái Fung.

No. 23.—An Ordinance to authorise in certain cases judicial investigations into the causes of fire.

No. 24.—An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of One hundred and Ninety-four thousand Four hundred and Sixty-Eight Dollars and Sixty-three Cents to defray the Charges of the Year 1887.

No. 25.—An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding One million Two hundred and Thirty-nine thousand Eight hundred and Ninety-seven Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1889.

No. 26.—An Ordinance entitled "The European District Reservation Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1888."

No. 27.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 9 of 1876.

No. 28.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Elias Isaac Elias, otherwise Elias Isaac Elias Zachariah.

No. 29.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 15 of 1886.

10.—COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLIES.

Executive Council.—The Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Treasurer, was admitted as a member of the Executive Council, in the room of the Hon. Alfred Lister, absent on leave.

Legislative Council.—The Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Treasurer, was admitted as a member of the Legislative Council, in the room of the Hon. Alfred Lister, absent on leave.

The Hon. B. Layton was nominated by the Chamber of Commerce in the room of the Hon. A. P. MacEwen, absent on leave.

Sanitary Board.—The Sanitary Board was re-constituted during the year under the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, with the Colonial Surgeon and the Captain Superintendent of Police as President and Vice-President, respectively.

Board of Examiners.—Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, a passed cadet, was appointed Honorary Secretary to the Board.

Medical Board.—Dr. Hartigan returned to the Colony, and resumed the Secretaryship to the Board.

11.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Sir G. William Des Vœux was absent from the Colony, by permission, from the 7th to the 20th March, and again on the 26th November to the 18th December. On both occasions Mr. Frederick Stewart, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government.

Judicial.—Sir George Philippo, Kt., Chief Justice, retired on pension on the 5th October 1888; and Mr. Justice Russell, Puisne Judge, succeeded to the office of Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Clarke, Chief Justice of Fiji, was appointed Puisne Judge.

Several changes occurred in various departments consequent upon officers going on leave of absence.

12.—OFFICERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SECURITY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES.

The validity of the sureties of the various officers was duly inquired into at the end of every quarter, and found to be satisfactory.

13.—PENSIONS.

The following officers retired on pension during the year:—

Sir George Phillippo, Kt., Chief Justice.
Henry George Thomsett, R.N., C.M.G., Harbour Master.
Ho Chuck Shan, Senior Master of Chinese, Central School.
1 European police constable.
1 Chinese police constable.
5 Indian police constables.

14.—EXPENDITURE OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The amounts paid during the year on account of the Establishments were:—

Payments in Great Britain in sterling money, 28,814*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Payments in the Colony in local currency, $699,525·19

15.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

No new Consulates were established in the Colony during 1888.

16.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on the 31st December 1888 was as follows:—

Males - - - - -	154,500
Females - - - - -	61,300
Total - - - -	215,800

which is 2,849 more than the estimated population at the end of 1887.

The last census was taken in 1881, the population being then returned as 160,402, of which 115,369 were males and 45,033 females.

The following is the mean estimated population for the last eight years :—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1882 - - -	119,704	46,729	166,433
1883 - - -	124,768	48,707	173,475
1884 - - -	130,560	50,969	181,529
1885 - -	137,079	53,515	190,594
1886 - - -	144,550	56,440	200,990
1887 - - -	152,427	60,524	212,951
1888 - - -	154,500	61,300	215,800

The births and deaths for the last five years were as follows :—

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Mean Population.	
			Births.	Deaths.
1884 - - - -	1,551	4,311	8·54	23·74
1885 - - - -	1,555	5,192	8·16	27·24
1886 - - - -	1,557	5,100	7·74	25·37
1887 - - - -	1,705	5,317	8·01	24·97
1888 - - - -	1,662	6,034	7·70	27·96

17.—Ecclesiastical Establishments.

There were no changes in these establishments as compared with previous years.

18.—Education.

The total number of schools subject to supervision by the Government amounted in 1888 to 97, as compared with 94 in 1887 and 90 in 1886.

The total number of scholars subject to Government supervision in the Government and grant-in-aid schools during the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	Government.	Grant-in-aid.	Total.
1884 - - -	1,978	3,907	6,885
1885 - - -	1,803	4,041	5,844
1886 - - -	1,893	3,951	5,844
1887 - - -	1,814	4,160	5,974
1888 - - -	1,933	4,325	6,258

The total expenditure for these schools for the last five years was as follows:—

	$.	c.
1884 - - - -	36,758	14
1885 - - - -	36,085	27
1886 - - - -	43,085	50
1887 - - - -	43,070	91
1888 - - - -	45,518	93

19.—EXCHANGE, MONEY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Exchange.

The rate of exchange on four months' bills on London fell from 3*s.* 2⅛*d.* per dollar on the 3rd of January to 2*s.* 11⅞*d.* on the 19th May.

During the year it fluctuated between these two rates, closing with 3*s.* 1*d.* in the latter end of December.

Currency.

The law affecting currency has remained unchanged.

Bank Notes.

The bank notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the last five years, as furnished by the managers of the respective banks, were as follows:—

Years.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
	$	$
1884 - - - -	4,114,787	1,810,033
1885 - - - -	4,080,071	2,000,833
1886 - - - -	4,368,705	2,138,333
1887 - - - -	5,052,473	2,362,833
1888 - - - -	5,759,875	2,660,000

Money Circulation.

The approximate amount of coin put into circulation up to 31st December 1888 was as follows:—

Hong Kong dollars and half-dollars struck at the Hong Kong Mint - - $1,421,487

Hong Kong silver and copper subsidiary coins (20, 10, and 5 cent pieces; and 1 cent and mil pieces) - - - $2,482,091

The importation of copper coin has been discontinued.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in the Colony are regulated by Ordinance 8 of 1885.

20.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There being no Custom House, it is not possible to furnish an account of all imports and exports, but a record of raw opium imported and exported during 1888 has been kept, and is as follows:—

Imported - - - - 71,512 $\frac{27}{40}$ chests

Exported - - - - 71,139$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{27}{40}$ „

The fraction $\frac{27}{40}$ is explained by the fact that one *broached* chest was landed here containing 27 instead of 40 balls, and was exported in the same condition.

21.—SHIPPING.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of junks, during the year 1888 amounted to 3,821 vessels and 4,536,442 tons, being 71,472 tons under the arrivals in 1887.

Junks.

23,958 junks measuring 1,863,968 tons arrived in the Colony in 1888, as against 23,521 junks and 1,793,923 tons in 1887, showing an increase of 437 junks and 70,045 tons.

The total arrivals for the last five years were:—

Years.	Exclusive of Junks.		Junks.		Grand Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1884 -	3,290	3,479,637	23,473	1,687,594	26,763	5,167,231
1885 -	3,428	3,866,709	23,674	1,797,222	27,102	5,663,931
1886 -	4,251	4,571,296	22,971	1,752,868	27,222	6,324,164
1887 -	4,078	4,607,914	23,521	1,793,923	27,599	6,401,837
1888 -	3,821	4,536,442	23,958	1,863,968	27,779	6,400,410

Immigration and Emigration.

The following will show the number of Chinese who arrived in and the number who departed from the Colony during the last five years:—

Years.	Arrived.	Departed.
1884 - - - -	73,767	51,247
1885 - - - -	80,773	57,517
1886 - - - -	88,704	64,522
1887 - - - -	92,375	82,897
1888 - - - -	98,800	96,195

22.—AGRICULTURE.

The lands of the Colony being limited and not favourable for agricultural purposes, there is no inducement for this industry here. The produce is quite nominal, and is for local consumption only.

23.—MANUFACTURES, &c.

Manufactories.

No new manufactories have been added to those already in existence.

Steam Launches.

The total number of steam launches built in the Colony in 1888 was 24 with a total tonnage of 1,655, as against 31 with a

total tonnage of 2,872 in 1887. The total number of licensed steam launches of all descriptions in the Colony in 1888 were :—

Licensed to carry passengers - -	41
Private launches - - - -	42
Colonial Government launches - -	8
War Department launches - - -	6
Total - - - -	97

24.—GRANTS OF LAND.

The sales of land on lease during the last five years were:—

Years.	Total No. of Sales.	Total No. of Acres sold.
		A. R. P.
1884 - - - -	76	25 3 8¼
1885 - - - -	145	28 0 14¾
1886 - - - -	88	82 2 31¾
1887 - - - -	187	76 0 8
1888 - - - -	202	104 0 4½

25.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

On the 1st January 1888 there were 576 prisoners in Victoria Gaol; 3,627 were admitted during the year, and 3,700 discharged; the total number of prisoners on the 31st of December 1888 was 503, of whom 51 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners was 531, as against 584 in the previous year.

The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	No. of Prisoners.			Total.	Daily Average Number in Prison.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.		
1884 - -	3,670	168	185	4,023	552·00
1885 - -	3,327	147	136	3,610	530·00
1886 - -	4,278	173	149	4,600	674·00
1887 - -	4,012	149	147	4,308	584·00
1888 - -	3,390	98	139	3,627	531·00

HONG KONG.

26.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.

The following is a return of cases tried at the Supreme Court during the last five years:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Charges abandoned.		Postponed.	
					Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1884 - -	68	101	65	20	8	16	—	—
1885 - -	91	147	103	22	16	22	—	—
1886 - -	75	107	59	20	16	27	1	1
1887 - -	94	155	82	36	17	26	1	8
1888 - -	101	186	99	47	28	40	—	—
Total -	429	696	408	145	85	131	2	9
Average of 5 years -	85⅘	139⅕	81⅗	29	17	26⅕	⅖	1⅘
Average of 5 years ending 1883 -	111⅘	165⅘	112	38⅕	9⅖	14⅗	⅗	1

Police Magistrates' Court.

The cases before the police magistrates during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Total No. of Cases.	Total No. of Prisoners.	Cases how disposed of.						
			Convicted and Punished.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Committed pending Orders.	Ordered to find Security.	Punished for False Testimony.	Undecided.
1884 - -	14,065	15,935	12,836	2,562	103	38	281	8	107
1885 - -	10,281	11,901	8,800	2,446	161	14	456	6	18
1886 - -	14,611	16,647	12,923	2,388	159	5	969	35	168
1887 - -	12,015	13,458	10,679	2,779	167	32	463	14	48
1888 - -	11,647	13,309	9,932	2,849	174	109	192	3	50
Total -	62,619	71,250	55,170	13,024	764	198	2,361	66	391
Average of 5 years	12,523·8	14,250·0	11,034·0	2,604·8	152·8	39·6	472·2	13·2	78·2
Average of 5 years ending 1883 -	8,106·0	9,775·4	6,977·0	2,165·2	200·0	22·8	305·4	27·2	77·8

Marine Magistrate's Court.

The cases before the Marine Magistrate's Court during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Defendants.	Defendants how disposed of.							
			Imprisoned.	Fined.	Forfeiture of Pay.	Reprimanded.	Sent back to duty.	To be discharged from Ship.	Dismissed.	Committed for trial.
1884 - - -	78	169	85	32	11	1	9	3	28	—
1885 - - -	111	221	136	47	14	2	1	—	21	—
1886 - - -	58	87	43	24	6	2	1	—	11	—
1887 - - -	90	152	47	37	6	21	15	3	23	—
1888 - - -	70	167	66	38	2	2	53	1	5	—
Total -	407	796	377	178	39	28	79	7	88	—
Average of last 5 years - -	81·4	159·2	75·4	35·6	7·8	5·6	15·8	1·4	17·6	—
Average of 5 years ending 1883 -	85·6	166·0	66·8	33·0	13·2	5·8	18·0	2·0	26·8	—

Police.

The cases brought under the notice of the police during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Serious Offences.			Minor Offences.		
	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharge
1884 - - -	2,652	1,297	560	7,551	4,743	1,102
1885 - - -	2,466	1,298	561	4,309	3,707	757
1886 - - -	2,500	1,389	472	6,336	6,457	672
1887 - - -	2,577	1,234	565	5,904	6,310	1,214
1888 - - -	2,436	1,116	556	5,678	5,772	1,105
Total -	12,631	6,334	2,714	29,778	26,989	4,850
Average of 5 years -	2,526·2	1,266·8	542·8	5,955·6	5,397·8	970·0
Average of 5 years ending 1883 -	2,359·2	1,312·4	473·4	4,291·2	3,794·6	869·0

27.—HOSPITALS, &c.

Civil Hospital.

The admissions to the Government Civil Hospital during the year were as follows as compared with 1887 :—

	1887.	1888.
Police - - - -	619	657
Board of Trade - - -	103	153
Private paying patients - -	324	313
Government servants - -	147	159
Police cases - - -	208	242
Destitutes - - - -	255	248
	1,656	1,772

The total admissions to the hospital and deaths during the last five years were as follows :—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1884 - - - -	1,354	50
1885 - - - -	1,510	76
1886 - - - -	1,623	79
1887 - - - -	1,656	89
1888 - - - -	1,772	80

The admissions from the police force and the number of deaths for the past five years were as follows :—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1884 - - - -	486	7
1885 - - - -	495	9*
1886 - - - -	602	14†
1887 - - - -	619	9
1888 - - - -	657	15

* Only five of these died in hospital, one died at his own residence, and three died whilst on leave.

† In hospital.

The admissions of Europeans were, in 1887, 139, as compared with 147 in 1888; the Chinese were 187 in 1887, as compared with 231 in 1888; and the Indians were 293 in 1887, as compared with 279 in 1888.

Military Hospital.

The admissions from among the troops during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1884 - - - -	1,097	12
1885 - - - -	1,090	24*
1886 - - - -	1,607	9
1887 - - - -	1,749	14
1888 - - - -	1,485	21

Small-pox Hospital.

The admissions during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.
1884 - - - -	7
1885 - - - -	14
1886 - - - -	11
1887 - - - -	65
1888 - - - -	99

Inquests.

The inquests held during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Inquests.
1884 - - - -	82
1885 - - - -	100
1886 - - - -	120
1887 - - - -	115
1888 - - - -	63

By Ordinance 17 of 1888 the office of coroner is abolished, and the duties thereof transferred to the police magistrates.

* Twelve died of cholera.

HONG KONG.

28.—CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution was formed.

29.—RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution was formed.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Colonial Secretary.
Hong Kong, 30th August 1889.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

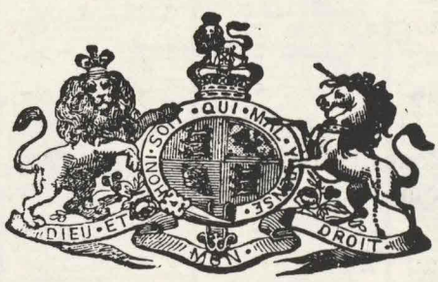
No. 84.

HONG KONG.

FURTHER REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 77.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1890.



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[C.—5897.–14.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
34	Fiji	1887
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—

No. 84.

HONG KONG.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 77.)

Sir G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Hong Kong,
October 31, 1889.

MY LORD,

IN connexion with the Blue Book for 1888 (forwarded with the usual Colonial Secretary's Report during my temporary absence in the late Mr. Stewart's despatch* of the 2nd ultimo) I think it may prove of interest that I should make some observations, at the same time giving additional information and statistics in respect of the present condition of the Colony and its progress in the two years during which I have administered the Government.

Revenue.

2. The ordinary revenue shows a constant tendency to grow in amount *pari passu* with the increasing population and wealth of the Colony: and that of 1888 ($1,557,300) was larger than in any former year. The increase by comparison with 1887 ($1,427,485) was principally in (1) "Stamps," which advanced to $187,150 from $170,233; (2) "Municipal Rates," which afforded $360,291 in the place of $332,863; (3) "Postage," which returned $144,218 instead of $137,436; (4) "Miscellaneous Receipts," principally profit on subsidiary coins, $107,341 as against $61,227.

3. The improvement in all of these items was, no doubt, largely due to the increased business and wealth of the Colony. That in "Municipal Rates" was, however, more immediately occasioned by the better assessment of property, which was brought about by an officer recently appointed for this special duty. I have reason to believe that there is still much opening for improvement in respect of valuation, and that from attention to this point, as well as from the largely increased value of property, there should be a still greater advance in this item during the next few years.

4. Profit on subsidiary coins is a comparatively new item of revenue, and is showing a constant tendency to increase. Appended is a table showing the number of coins issued since

* Colonial Possessions Report No. 77.

HONG KONG.

the supply commenced, together with the profit obtained each year.

—	Silver Coins.	Copper Coins.	Profit.
	$	$	$
1864 - - -	15,638·70	30,293·92	13,333·22
1865 - - -	49,447·00	30,343·58	6,758·58
1866 - - -	60,014·60	30,000·00	5,877·49
1867 - - -	10,000·00	29,987·28	14,249·41
1872 - - -	14,000·00	—	950·52
1873 - - -	105,317·00	9,000·00	7,878·70
1874 - - -	49,883·00	11,000·00	2,628·91
1875 - - -	47,287·00	3,500·00	5,361·52
1876 - - -	44,623·00	6,500·00	8,088·13
1877 - - -	57,680·00	12,500·00	10,781·51
1878 - - -	38,815·00	14,700·00	8,572·34
1879 - - -	50,595·00	12,000·00	11,528·36
1880 - - -	50,400·00	6,300·00	7,454·80
1881 - - -	46,600·00	4,500·00	2,850·67
1882 - - -	100,800·00	10,000·00	10,000·08
1883 - - -	101,900·00	—	2,403·47
1884 - - -	212,500·00	—	26,285·37
1885 - - -	282,200·00	—	33,464·87
1886 - - -	476,500·00	—	41,348·48
1887 - - -	497,300·00	—	24,352·73
1888 - - -	910,000·00	—	72,904·77

The issue this year will, according to present indications, again show a great advance, having already (October 23rd) reached a total of $948,500, consisting of 11,854,250 separate coins, and though this must not be counted on as a permanent source of revenue I see no reason to anticipate any falling off in the demand in the immediate future.

5. The desire of the Chinese for these coins (consisting of pieces representing 20 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, manufactured at Her Majesty's Mint for this Colony) appears to be almost insatiable; and if from any cause there is delay in the supply from England, the purchasing price at once rises to a premium, which has been known at the Chinese New Year to be as high as 20 per cent. I understand that this coinage is growing more and more in favour among the vast population of the neighbouring Empire, probably owing to confidence in its exactly uniform standard of value, and that the coins are not only used as money, but are to a considerable extent converted into buttons and other ornaments.

6. Besides the causes for increase of receipts above indicated there is another which in the next few years is likely to have a greater effect in this direction than any other. I refer to the enhanced return from the opium farm, which was in 1888 granted for three years from April 1889 at an increase of $295,200 per annum over the price obtained for the previous term. This result is attributable partly to the large increase of population and partly to efforts, which proved successful, to arouse competition on the part of the Chinese capitalists of Singapore and Penang.

7. It should be mentioned that the revenue has, in Hong Kong, a much smaller proportion than in most Colonies to the amount of trade and realised wealth, owing to the complete absence of import duties, and to the fact that there are no tonnage duties on shipping beyond the small charge of one-third of one per cent. per ton for lights. Moreover, the rates, which at the highest (in the town of Victoria) are fixed at only 13 per cent. of the annual rateable value, compare very favourably with those of the principal towns of England, ranging, I understand, from 20 to 30 per cent. I see no probability of any necessity for increased taxation, and should much deplore it if it occurred, as the lightness of the public burthens has, without doubt, contributed largely to the extraordinary prosperity of the Colony. I refer to the above facts, therefore, merely for the purpose of showing that the amount of the revenue, by which the importance of a country is not unfrequently gauged, is, when applied to this purpose in Hong Kong, entirely misleading.

Land Sales Receipts.

8. "Land premiums" (the sums received for leases of land sold by auction) which, being wisely separated from "revenue," are applied to defence and other permanent works, amounted to $160,688 in 1888 and $155,238 in 1887, and thus show an enormous increase by comparison with all former years, though the increased area sold was by no means in the same proportion. In the absence of some calamity, such as war, the amount of these premiums is likely to remain large for some years to come, and that already obtained from the same source this year (in the first three quarters) is $156,200. As only a very small proportion of the available building sites in the Colony are as yet leased, it may be expected that the cost of the public works required will for a long time to come be largely defrayed from this source, and this especially if Hong Kong should, according to present promise, become a large manufacturing, as well as commercial, centre,

9. It will be observed that a comparison between the years 1887 and 1888 shows an advance in the aggregate of rents which is proportionately somewhat larger than that in premiums. This is due to a change effected last year by which the rent fixed for land to be leased bears a somewhat larger proportion than formerly to the upset price at which leases are offered for competition by auction. In the belief that we had been unduly sacrificing the future to the present by obtaining in premiums so large a share of the proceeds, I had hoped to carry this change still further; but I was induced to be content at first with a short step in the desired direction, partly by the consideration that we are at present burthened with a specially heavy charge for defence and other permanent works, and partly because the local experience of my advisers suggested a doubt whether there would not be a loss in premiums out of proportion to the increase of rents. Owing to the increasing value of land it is impossible to ascertain from subsequent experience whether this doubt had substantial

HONG KONG.

foundation; but as the premiums per acre received since the change was effected have, in most instances, been higher than they have ever been before for land in the same localities, I am disposed to think that a further advance may safely be made in the same direction. In view of the financial difficulties which have arisen elsewhere from the reckless sale of the Crown Lands and the use of the proceeds as ordinary Revenue, and bearing in mind the precarious nature of some important items of our present receipts, I cannot but think that it would be worth while, even at some sacrifice of present advantage, to apportion a larger share of the proceeds to permanent income.

10. This consideration will be kept in view; and if it should be found inadvisable, for the reason above indicated, to further increase the rent fixed in connection with the auction sales, it may perhaps be expedient to attain the same object by giving purchasers the right of commuting the premiums for increased rent on terms which would be likely to induce its exercise.

Expenditure.

11. Though the total expenditure of the year 1888, $1,992,329, was somewhat smaller than that of 1887, $2,023,002, this was entirely due to a large decrease in "Extraordinary Expenditure" on "Defence" and other permanent works, the aggregate cost of which in 1888 was only $530,870 as against $744,820 in 1887. Ordinary Expenditure, however, increased from $1,278,181 in 1887 to $1,461,459 in 1888, a result which might be expected from the demands of our rapidly increasing population. It is at the same time satisfactory to note that even this increased expenditure was exceeded by Ordinary Revenue to the extent of some $95,000.

12. The decrease in Extraordinary Expenditure is chiefly accounted for by the fact that our Defence Works were approaching completion and cost only $62,115 as against $258,444 in 1887. The Tytam Waterworks, moreover, cost only $51,150 as against $230,811 in 1887. This great enterprise, (which comprises the confinement of some 350 millions of gallons of water by a dam constructed of granite and concrete at a distance of five miles from the City of Victoria, and the conveyance of the supply by means of a tunnel 2,450 yards in length, and a cut granite aqueduct for the remaining distance,) was so far completed that the water was let into some of the existing "Mains" in October 1888. But as the "Distribution Works" which are required in connection with the new supply are not commenced, it has not been possible to obtain any return in Revenue for this improvement in supply, and the large expenditure on the works, which up to this date amounts to $1,137,315, is as yet pecuniarily unremunerative.

13. Not only for this reason, but chiefly because this magnificent supply of water is, and for some time to come must remain, comparatively unavailable, it is unfortunate that provision for "Distribution" was not made at an earlier period during the progress of the main works. The delay in this and various other

even more needed public works must be chiefly attributed to the undue weakness of the Staff of the Surveyor General's Department. The extraordinary density of the population, living for the most part on or under the abrupt slopes of a hill 1,100 to 1,800 feet in height, together with the comparatively recent and very rapidly increasing settlement of Europeans on and in the neighbourhood of the summit, requires from this Department, in the interests of public health and safety, a far closer supervision of Private Works than is ordinarily necessary elsewhere, and imposes duties which are probably more in number and far heavier in degree than are required for any similar area or population in the world.

14. From various indications it would appear open to question whether for years past the Department referred to has been strong enough in numbers to discharge its duties satisfactorily in a climate which every summer renders unfit for duty a large proportion of out-of-door officers. The health of the able and indefatigable Surveyor General, Mr. Price, who has just retired from the service, gradually succumbed and eventually broke down completely in the endeavour, naturally but very imperfectly successful, to do the work of several ordinary men; and the Department has consequently now to cope with the arrears and difficulties, resulting from these shortcomings, in addition to the new demands arising from the large increase of population. For the above reasons the reorganisation and strengthening of the Department now under your lordship's consideration are imperatively required, as it is only by that means that we can hope to make energetic progress in the various sanitary and other public works which are already, and are becoming more and more, grievously required. And I refer to the subject in this place in order to show that, notwithstanding the completion of the great works specially referred to, there are others equally required and as yet not commenced which will in the next few years necessitate an expenditure on permanent improvements at least equal to, if not greater than that of recent years. Fortunately, as remarked elsewhere, there is every prospect of a sufficient supply of funds to meet the necessary cost without increase of taxation.

Military Expenditure.

15. "Military Expenditure" (apart from "Defence Works"), which is included in the above total of expenditure, was $134,594 in 1888 as against $128,815 in 1887, the increase being almost altogether due to the depreciation of silver, and the consequently increased number of dollars required to make up the annual contribution of 20,000*l.* towards the support of the troops.

16. With reference, however, to the contemplated increase of this contribution, it is to be remembered that the above expenditure by no means fairly represents the burthen which is really borne by the Colony. The War Department and the Admiralty occupy land in various localities which in its aggregate area is of great

extent, and much of which, being in the centre of the town of Victoria, is of very great value. Unlike the other land of the Colony this pays no rent, and, what is of more importance, contributes nothing to the rates from the expenditure of which the departments in question receive the benefit. When this is taken into account, and there is also added the interest of the cost of the defence works and other lesser items, I estimate that the real contribution of the Colony to its defence exceeds $300,000 per annum, a sum equal to nearly one-fifth of the revenue.

17. Judging from the information at my command, I question whether there is paid towards this object by any other Colony so large a proportion of its receipts, or anything like it; and it is moreover to be borne in mind that the defence of Hong Kong practically includes to a considerable extent that of all the British mercantile communities in the many Treaty ports of China and Japan, which contribute nothing to its revenue. All things considered, therefore, it seems open to question not only whether Hong Kong can be fairly called upon to increase its military contribution, but also whether additional areas of land (such as are continually being requisitioned for the military and naval departments) should not contribute to the Colonial revenue in the shape of either rent or rates or both.

Financial Position.

18. The only debt of the Colony is one of 200,000*l.* raised in 1887 for defensive and other works. The sinking fund of 7,072*l.* per annum is expected to discharge this debt in 1907. Though the total expenditure in 1888, $1,992,329*l.*, exceeded the total receipts (ordinary revenue and land premiums), $1,718,188, by $274,141, there was at the close of the year a Treasury balance to credit of $360,649·76.

Legislation.

19. Of the 29 Ordinances passed in 1888, only the following deserve notice:—

(I.) "The Vaccination Ordinance, 1888," constitutes the first effort made in this Colony to render general a protection which is especially required in consequence of (1) the frequency with which small-pox is introduced by steamers coming from all parts of the world; (2) the impracticability of its exclusion by effective quarantine; and (3) its fatal prevalence when it has once obtained a footing, owing to the density of the population and the unfavourable sanitary conditions in which a large portion of it habitually lives.

20. We have happily in the Colony none of those—or at least none have made themselves known—who look to the few cases in which evil has been caused, and who ignore the comparatively enormous good which vaccination has achieved for humanity. The Chinese are thorough believers in the advantage of this pro-

tection, and accept it readily—a fact which is the more remarkable, inasmuch as they, for the most part, reject altogether other applications of Western medical science.

21. (II.) "The Vagrancy Ordinance, 1888," was an attempt to meet an evil of growing magnitude, by rendering those having the management or control of vessels liable for the cost incurred by the Colony in respect of destitute persons introduced. Scarcely a week passes without the necessity of sending to their homes in Europe or elsewhere persons who have come here ostensibly to seek a livelihood; this repatriation being the preferable and cheaper alternative to their perpetual maintenance in gaol or other public institutions. Some of these are sent here apparently, according to instructions, by Her Majesty's consuls in China and Japan; and not a few come, I suspect, with the object of being sent home at the public expense. Those of them who are foreigners are almost invariably repudiated by their consuls, as having no means of proving their nationality; and thus, from one cause or another, all become a charge on the Colony. The Ordinance above referred to, which was intended as a remedy for this state of things, has probably done some good by inducing greater caution in the introduction of such persons; but it cannot so far be said to have been a marked success; and though it may perhaps be susceptible of beneficial amendment, I fear that the evil is one which can never be completely cured, and must be regarded as an inseparable incident of our position as a great shipping centre.

22. (III.) "The Rating Ordinance, 1888," was, as the title implies, enacted for the improvement of the rating system of the Colony. It embodies the more valuable portions of previous Ordinances, and contains at the same time various useful additions and amendments, principally with the object of simplifying procedure, which are the result of the experience gained by Mr. Lister, the treasurer, in the supervision of the system, and of the careful attention given by him to the subject.

23. (IV.) "The European District Reservation Ordinance" deals with an evil which has been recognised by successive Governors for years past, but for which this represents the first effort to provide a remedy. The close packing of the Chinese in their houses, which is the normal condition of all classes among them, including in some degree even the well-to-do, enables a much larger rent to be obtained from land in Chinese occupation than from that inhabited by Europeans, whose health in a climate unfavourable to them (not to mention their comfort) requires much more breathing space in connexion with their residences. Thus the large influx of Chinese in recent years, and the comparative advantage to landowners in providing residence for them, has caused a continually increasing intrusion of Chinese houses upon the quarter of the town formerly occupied exclusively by Europeans. This result would have been comparatively endurable if it were possible for Europeans to live in health or comfort when surrounded by such houses. But, unlike the Chinese, who have, probably by

HONG KONG

a long process of natural selection, become inured and insensible to the conditions inseparable from extreme density of population, they are rendered ill and miserable by the effects of habits which such insensibility produces. Thus, little by little, and at a gradually increasing rate, the Europeans were being, so to speak, pushed out of the town of Victoria; and it seemed probable that before long there would be no suitable area for their residence there, and that such as remained in the Colony would have to choose between the alternative of living under most disagreeable and unhealthy conditions, or of incurring the heavy expense, possible only to the comparatively wealthy, of residence in the Hill District.

24. Had the above state of things been allowed to continue there can be no doubt that it would have brought about a diminution, if not actual at least relative, of the already small European population, a result which could not be otherwise than prejudicial to the Chinese themselves. For, though possessed of many valuable characteristics, the latter are still, and are likely to be for a long time to come, lacking in some of the qualities which are essential to true progress; and I can scarcely think there is any opening for rational doubt, that without the presence of a considerable complement of Europeans (apart from those engaged in Government) this Colony could no more maintain, that it could ever have reached, its present condition of prosperity.

25. By the Ordinance in question a certain portion of the town is reserved, not for exclusively European occupation, but for houses built according to European models, and occupied in much more limited numbers than is usual with Chinese. If Chinese choose to live under these conditions, as I am informed they commonly do in the neighbouring Penang, there is nothing in the Ordinance to prevent their doing so; and the provisions of this law are simply directed to secure for Europeans a prescribed portion of the town in which they can live in reasonable comfort.

26. No opposition was offered to the Ordinance on the part of the Chinese, possibly because they themselves prefer to be segregated from Europeans; and there was none from any other quarter, though I had looked for at least some on the part of landowners, who might naturally be expected to resent such a limitation on the right of property. To their credit, however, they, tacitly or expressly, assented to a measure which may thus be regarded as universally recognised to be necessary.

27. (V.) "An Ordinance to authorise in certain cases judicial investigations into the cause of fires" sufficiently explains itself. The effect of this measure has so far apparently been beyond anticipation, as the number of fires, which had become very serious, very largely diminished immediately after the law came into force. It remains to be seen whether this comparatively happy state of things will continue. If so, I apprehend that the result will be largely due to greater care in the selection of insurance risks and decreased recklessness of competition among insurers.

28. The principal of the twenty-six Ordinances which have already been passed this year are as follows :—

(A.) "The Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889," is a measure for facilitating a great scheme of reclamation along the whole of the western front of the Town of Victoria extending for 3,051 yards. By this project 57 acres will be added to the town, including a Praya or Esplanade 70 feet wide, together with other streets of an aggregate length of 5,518 yards. The cost estimated at $2,921,365 is to be defrayed by the proprietors (including the Government) of the land now facing the sea, who will in return receive the reclaimed land opposite to their frontage. As the profits on the work are expected to be large, it is probable that the great majority of the frontage proprietors will accept the terms offered. In the case of dissentients the expense of carrying out that portion of the work in which they decline to participate will fall on the Government.

29. Though it is hoped that the public Treasury will gain largely by this work : (1) from the difference between the cost of reclamation and the value of such of the reclaimed land, as will belong to the Crown ; (2) from the building sites which will be rendered available at the west of the town by the removal of earth required for the reclamation ; and (3) in rents and rates from the large area added to the town ; — the principal objects of the scheme were :— (1) to afford an opening for relief from the present overcrowding of the population ; (2) to bring the front of the town in immediate juxtaposition with deep water in the place of the present foreshore which is for the most part silted up and often extremely noxious ; and (3) to improve the appearance and increase the mercantile convenience of the town front by the provision of better buildings, and of a wider Praya more adapted to the requirements of a vast and growing commerce.

30. The carrying out of this great scheme, which is due to the initiation of the Honorable C. P. Chater, does not appear likely to present any serious engineering problems, and the successful solution of such as there are may be regarded as only a question of time. The principal difficulties are in connection with the financial arrangements and the due adjustment of private interests and claims. This portion of the subject, which has already occasioned much consideration and a large correspondence, is likely to require the careful attention of the Government for some time to come. But while it cannot be expected that all of the many concerned will be completely satisfied, nor that during the progress of the works there will be an entire absence of complaints on the score of inconvenience, I do not permit myself to entertain a doubt that when the whole is completed the undertaking will be almost universally regarded as having been a great and lasting benefit to the community.

31. (B.) "The Building Ordinance, 1889," is an elaborate measure of 89 clauses intended to meet a want which has been of late years more and more seriously felt, viz. :—the means

HONG KONG.

of compelling greater attention to security and sanitary requirements in the construction of buildings.

32. (C.) "The Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, 1889," is intended to make better provision for the acquirement of land for public purposes, and constitutes a tribunal of arbitration for the award of compensation. One of the principal objects of the measure is to facilitate a contemplated experiment having for its object a permanent improvement in the sanitary condition of the town. A large portion of the population is densely crowded in houses which are without yards or windows at the back, and which as regards five-sixths of the rooms are in perpetual and complete darkness. It is proposed to acquire one or more portions of land covered with such houses and to re-sell them (1) either after the replacement of the present houses by others constructed under better sanitary conditions, or (2) with an obligation attached to the purchase for the building of such houses. Probably the first alternative will have to be adopted at the outset; and if that should prove financially successful there would be comparatively little difficulty in respect of the second and more convenient one. It is hoped that the cost of reconstruction and the loss of building area from the provision of "back-yards" will be largely compensated by demand for the improved dwellings. If the event should prove otherwise the project need not be pushed further; but I apprehend that it would be worth some cost to the public to get rid of a grave scandal and a serious danger to the public health by the only method yet suggested which would not cause widespread distrust and discontent among the Chinese population. It will, however, be worth consideration in the future, whether a portion or all of the loss, if any, which may be incurred on resale should not be recouped by a special rate levied on the district benefited or by a quasi-penal rate on houses unprovided with back-yards.

33. (D.) The title of "The Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1889," sufficiently explains itself. The system of purchasing or kidnapping girls, often of very tender age, for the purpose of training them to a life of prostitution seems to be generally prevalent in China, and its suppression in Hong Kong is attended with many difficulties. So many are interested in it, and so much of the extraordinary cunning of the Chinese is employed in concealing its operation, that its complete extinction at an early date can scarcely be anticipated. It is hoped, however, that this measure, which occupied many days in its consideration by the Executive and Legislative Councils, will at least impose a serious check upon it, and will eventually render this abominable trade too dangerous to be any longer attractive.

34. But while the greater part of this Ordinance may be hoped to be productive of unmixed good, there is one special provision of it, passed in deference to the present condition of public opinion in England, which I cannot conscientiously approve and in respect of which, therefore, I have felt it an obligatory duty to give

emphatic support to the protest of the unofficial Members of Council. I refer to the clause which give legislative sanction to the policy, already adopted by executive order before my arrival in the Colony, of terminating the compulsory examination of women. The full expression of my views on this vexed question being inappropriate to this report is given in a separate despatch; and it will be sufficient to mention here (1) that "examination" is not only not objected to, but has been shown by positive proof to be approved and desired by the whole of the unfortunate class which was subject to it, and (2) that the measure of abolition now adopted is against the wishes of all classes and races of the community.

35. (E.) "The Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889," represents an effort to improve the law relating to the rendition, in accordance with treaty obligations, of Chinese subjects charged with the commission of crime in China. The principal change is one which, with regard to the rendition of prisoners, lessens the responsibility of the magistrate, and increases that of the Governor in Council, who, however, will now receive the assistance of the Chief Justice in the consideration of the evidence. There is also a much-needed schedule specifying the crimes in respect of which rendition may be granted, and a provision (passed in deference to fears generally prevalent among the intelligent Chinese) by which special security is afforded to persons who have been for a year resident in the Colony. I have dealt at length with this extremely difficult subject in other despatches; and it will be sufficient to say here that, so long as Chinese ideas as to the methods and the sufficiency of proof are so utterly at variance with the requirements of British Law, it will, I fear, be practically impossible to avoid international disagreements as to what prisoners rightly come under the designation of "criminals" whose extradition is obligatory by the Treaty.

36. Among the principal of the legislative measures now under consideration, the following are among the most important:—(1.) An amendment of the law regulating emigration, intended to check the serious abuses which, according to evidence continually accumulating, attend the exportation of the enormous number of Coolies, now probably exceeding 50,000, who annually leave the Colony for service in Sumatra, Borneo, the Straits Settlements, and elsewhere. (2.) A law for better defining the powers of the Sanitary Board established by the *Public Health Ordinance*, 1887. (3.) The constitution of a Public Officers' Widows and Orphans' Fund. (4.) An amendment of the bankruptcy law. I had much hoped, moreover, to have initiated before now a measure for the settlement of titles, and for rendering more simple the transfer of land on the principle of the Torrens Act. But in view of the minute sub-division of many of the most valuable lots, and of the frequent uncertainty as to area and boundaries, I find, to my regret, that any such measure, in order to be satisfactorily effective, must be preceded by a trigonometrical survey, for which accordingly I have asked your Lordship's approval.

Education.

Hong Kong.

37. On this important subject I can scarcely do better than quote some remarks in a report written just before his death by the late Mr. Stewart, Colonial Secretary, whose deep interest in the cause of education was evinced by the valuable aid which he rendered to it during the whole course of the long period of his public service, now unhappily come to an end.

"The advance in education is one of the most gratifying features in the progress of the Colony. There is yet much to be done and female education is only in its infancy; but the lines on which the system is moving seem to be correct, and time alone is required to reclaim those portions of the field which remain untouched. We have now four highly efficient public schools, not including the convents, which do so much for the education of girls. Government schools are penetrating into the outlying villages. The Education Code is working most smoothly, and seldom gives rise to any question which cannot be easily settled."

38. It is gratifying to note that since the above was written your Lordship has approved a scheme for the establishment, by way of experiment, of a Government central school for girls similar to the boys' school, now called the "Victoria College," which has already proved so successful. The various objections to the establishment of such a school, which I have heard urged in the Colony or which have been suggested by my own experience, were, in my opinion, entirely overcome by an able report of Dr. Eitel, the Inspector of Schools (dated the 5th of July 1889), which has been already forwarded to your Lordship. There appear to be strong grounds for believing that the institution now to be established will meet a very urgent need; and that its success, by giving a general impetus to female education, will considerably reduce the unhappily large number of children in the Colony (8,000, the great majority girls) who are still without education.

39. The completion of the new building for "Victoria College," as providing greatly increased accommodation for pupils, together with the additional strength given to the teaching staff, may be expected to assist largely in the good work which this institution has already effected—not only for the higher education of the youth of the Colony, but in introducing a leaven of European acquirements in knowledge among the people of the neighbouring Empire. I should not, however, omit to state that this latter object, as well as the higher education of the Colony, is being largely served by several other institutions which, supported mainly by private subscription, are assisted by Government contributions, under the grant-in-aid system established by Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy.

Shipping.

40. With regard to the tonnage statistics contained in the Colonial Secretary's report,* it may be noted that the aggregate

* Colonial Possessions Report No. 77.

tonnage of vessels entering the port of Victoria during 1888, 6,400,410 tons, shows a slight falling off from the returns for 1887, 6,401,837 tons. In view (1) of the diminished export of tea from China in consequence of the competition of India and Ceylon; and (2) of the serious checks given to Chinese emigration in the United States and the Australian Colonies, with the contraction of trade thereby occasioned, it might have been expected that the shipping returns would have been much more seriously affected. But though, probably as the result of these causes, the tonnage of European vessels fell from 4,607,914 to 4,536,442 tons, it will be seen that that of junks rose from 1,793,923 to 1,863,968 tons, so that the decrease of trade in one direction was almost entirely compensated by increase in another. It should be noted that the shipping returns of this Colony are very far from merely indicating the entry of steamers for the purpose of coal supply, as is probably the case with the greater portion of the large tonnage returned by some of the Mediterranean ports. For Hong Kong is the terminus not only of the whole of the junk trade (in 1888 1,863,968 tons) and of nearly all of the European and American sailing ships entering, but also of many lines of Ocean steamers, including three trading to America, two to Australia, one to Calcutta, two to Europe (the Austrian Lloyd's and Florio Rubattino), and others to Manilla, Borneo, Siam, and the coast ports of China; while of the steamships of the other great lines, the P. & O., the Messageries Maritimes, the German Lloyd's, the "Ocean," "Glen," "Shire," and "Ben" Lines, which proceed onwards to Shanghai or Japan, there are very few which do not leave here on the outward voyage, and take in on the homeward a considerable portion of their cargo.

Afforestation.

41. The work of afforestation, begun in 1881, is being still continued. According to a return furnished by Mr. Ford, the Superintendent of the Department, 374,882 trees were planted in 1887 and 682,325 in 1888, the number planted altogether having been 5,676,207. In so far as I have been able to judge from personal observation, a very large proportion of these plants have either failed altogether or are merely stunted shrubs. I am awaiting a report from Mr. Ford as to the actual extent of success, with the causes of failure, before considering what measures should be taken under the circumstances.

Gaols.

42. It is satisfactory to note that the number of prisoners in the gaol, which was 4,600 in 1886, fell to 4,308 in 1887 and to 3,627 in 1888, the daily average having similarly fallen from 674 in 1886 to 584 in 1887 and to 531 in 1888, the total decrease in both cases being over 20 per cent. The returns of prisoners tried in the courts show also a falling off, which, if it may be taken to

indicate a decrease of crime, is probably due to the severer discipline introduced into the gaol. The number of prisoners still bears an abnormal proportion to the population, and the fact can scarcely excite surprise in view of the hard struggle for livelihood among the people of China, and the immediate neighbourhood to the Colony of the Province of Kwangtung of which the extremely dense population is said to be the most lawless in the Empire.

Population.

43. Statistics of the estimated population are given in the Colonial Secretary's report, but it may be well to point out here that the difference between the number returned at the census of 1881 (160,402) and that estimated for 1888 (215,000) shows an increase of 34½ per cent. in seven years, and that the ratio of women to men, which was 1 to 2·56 in 1881, is now estimated at 1 to 2·52. This great, and apparently permanent, disproportion between the sexes would appear to justify special caution in applying to Hong Kong that deprivation of protection from certain disease which has been deemed expedient in England.

Public Works.

44. The Tytam waterworks have been already mentioned under the head of Expenditure. During the period under review the great dam of the main reservoir, the tunnel and conduit received their finishing work, and the service reservoir and filter beds were commenced and completed.

45. Victoria College, which has been several years in construction, was also completed in July last. It is unquestionably a very handsome building of which the Colony may be proud, but it has cost a large sum ($251,587) and promises also to be extremely costly in maintenance. Seeing how grievous is and must have been the need of other public works, and noting that provision might have been made for the same number of pupils in a more modest building, I cannot but feel that it would have been better if much of the expense incurred, and time devoted to this edifice, had been diverted in other directions.

46. A building has been commenced and completed for the reception of girls, in charge of the Registrar General, who have been rescued from kidnappers or from brothel slavery, their maintenance, as hitherto has been customary, in a building connected with the Tung-Wa Hospital having proved unsatisfactory.

47. Of the works now most urgently required, the filter-beds for the Pokfulam waterworks, which previously to the construction of the Tytam Works afforded the chief supply of the town, have been commenced; and, it may be hoped, will be completed before next summer, which is the season of the heaviest rain. The water

of this reservoir, which is carried into the town round the base of Mount Davis and the Victoria Peak by a conduit some 3¼ miles in length, has always been rendered muddy by heavy rains, and this disagreeable and most undesirable effect has been aggravated this year not only by an exceptional season, but by the number of excavations for houses which have been made at the brink of the watershed. As the upper levels and other outlying portions of the town must be still dependent upon this supply, it is a matter of urgent importance that a work which ought to have been commenced long ago should be as quickly as possible pushed to completion.

48. Owing to the causes referred to under the head of expenditure, other works, although equally needed, have either made very slight progress or have not been commenced at all. The general improvement of the drainage, the necessity of which is continually increasing, will be commenced as soon as the engineers, who are being consulted on the subject, have decided on the system to be adopted; and the same may be said respecting the distribution works required for the Tytam Water. The Western Market has not proceeded beyond the preparation of the site, and there has as yet been no possibility of commencing the public laundries which appeared on the estimates for the year and are very much required, the present process of clothes-washing being in various ways dangerous to health, especially from the quantity of soap in solution which in some quarters pollutes the air. The Epidemic Hospital has not been built because not a single site that was, or apparently can be, selected was without grave objections. In consequence, it has been determined to have recourse to a hulk; and it is to be hoped that the efforts to obtain one, commenced some months ago, may now be shortly successful.

49. A similar difficulty in respect of site has occurred in connection with the Lunatic Asylum intended to be provided for Chinese. Such a building is required because the present Asylum is sufficient only for Europeans, Chinese patients having been ordinarily confined under most undesirable conditions in a building in the charge of the Directors of the Tung-Wah Hospital. It is, however, necessary to restrict the use of the proposed Asylum to Chinese either born or long resident in the Colony, or we should be very quickly inundated with lunatics from the neighbouring Empire. But for service within these prescribed limits such an institution is, and must have been for a long time past, very grievously required on the simplest grounds of humanity. I am glad, therefore, to be able to report that a site has at length been selected, and the plan of the buildings approved; so that, it may be hoped, the work will now proceed without further delay.

50. But second to no other work in importance or necessity is that which is intended to effect the junction of the East and West Prayas by an embankment* carried along the front of the Naval

* Not the reclamation mentioned under the head "Legislation."

HONG KONG.

Yard and the Military Cantonments, the plans of which were forwarded to your Lordship early in the year. This work (the expediency of which has been recognised by the Colonial Government for many years past, though it has now for the first time received the entire concurrence of the local authorities representing the Army and Navy) has for its principal object the provision of additional means of communication between the eastern and western portions of the town, now almost cut off from one another by land in the occupation of the Admiralty and War Departments; the one narrow road which runs through this property being insufficient for the present traffic and entirely inadequate to permit of that expansion of the town eastward which is required to provide an outlet for an overcrowded population. Besides the main advantage derivable from the scheme there are other incidental ones of much importance to the Imperial Departments concerned. Thus the Admiralty will obtain reclaimed land worth (at the low estimate of $3 a square foot) $156,792, and, what is of more importance, will save the cost which would shortly have to be incurred for the removal of the present silted-up and often noxious foreshore in front of the Naval Yard, obtaining in its place a convenient cut-stone basin, 400 feet by 200 feet, offering a much needed protection to boats and launches, as well as sufficiently deep water close along shore at all times of tide. While the War Department will obtain land worth, at a similar low valuation, $1,325,856, much of which will not, I understand, be required for military purposes and will thus be available for sale. Under these circumstances I do not permit myself to entertain a doubt that a substantial Imperial contribution will be made towards the cost of the work, estimated at $691,000, which would be a heavy burthen if required to be borne entirely by the Colony—and this more especially inasmuch as it is the obstruction caused by Imperial property which has necessitated the expense. In any case it may be hoped that an improvement so absolutely needed for the welfare and progress of the Colony will not be long delayed.

Various Statistics.

51. The following statistics furnished to me by Mr. Wodehouse, Acting Treasurer, may prove of interest:—

	30th Sept. 1879.	30th Sept. 1889.
	$	$
Total amount of deposits current and fixed in the European banks in Honk Kong.	7,068,600	23,882,000
Ditto (estimated) in Chinese banks- -	—	15,000,000
Total amount in the savings bank - -	—	211,000
Notes in circulation with bullion in reserve of all banks.	4,776,856	9,100,826
Market value of all registered Companies in Hong Kong.	39,380,000	63,921,700

Review of Leading Events and of the Condition and Prospects of the Colony.

52. At the beginning of the period of two years above referred to, viz., in November 1887, occurred the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. The British community fell short of no other in its outward expression of loyalty; but the most striking feature of the occasion was the heartiness with which the Chinese took part in it, and the very large expense, estimated as exceeding $100,000, which they incurred for processions and illuminations in honour of the event. There could scarcely be better practical proof that they are, on the whole, satisfied with the rule of which they have now had some 45 years' experience.

53. In the following months occurred a very serious epidemic of small-pox among the Chinese, and one of fever among the European inhabitants of the Western District. The former was similar to what has occurred frequently, and is only what might be expected among a dense population hitherto so largely unvaccinated. The latter, though attributed at the time to other causes, has been shown by later information to have been distinctly malarial (there having been only one case which showed symptoms of drain-poison), and was, in all probability, due principally to the upturning of earth over large areas in connexion with the Belcher's Bay Fort, and many private works.

54. In the spring of 1888 occurred a great "strike" on the part of some 4,000 cargo-boatmen, which caused much interference with the trade of the port and at one time threatened serious disturbance. The cause was a regulation, passed before my arrival in the Colony, according to which each cargo-boatman, as the condition of obtaining a license, was compelled to provide (in addition to the fee of 25 cents per annum) a photograph of himself for the purpose of identification. My inquiries into the subject at once rendered it evident that, supposing a license to be expedient for each boatman, the photograph was really necessary to preclude facility of transfer. But it was at the same time equally evident that this very facility of transfer had rendered comparatively tolerable a tax on labour which somewhat savoured of oppression, and to the burthen of which the cost and trouble involved in providing photographs would make a very considerable addition. And it, moreover, seemed probable that the principal object of the measure, viz., facility of police supervision over cargo-boats, might be equally well attained by less questionable means.

55. While, for these reasons, sympathising with the strikers as having a just ground of complaint, I felt that, in a community of this kind, it would be unwise to amend the regulation until they had modified their attitude of combined obstruction to trade, inasmuch as the success of pressure under such circumstances would have quickly caused it to be used for less legitimate objects. Notification was therefore made to them that while they, as free men, were of course at liberty to cease work if they chose to do so any attempt

Hong Kong.

on their part at disorder or intimidation of others would be visited with the strongest measures of repression; and they were at the same time informed in conciliatory terms that, when they returned to work, their complaints would at once receive careful consideration. In somewhat less than a fortnight from the commencement of the "strike" this policy had at length the desired effect, and after the men had returned to work the regulations were reconsidered. As now amended, the tax on ordinary boatmen is abolished, and the necessity of a license, with its accompanying photograph, is imposed only on the head man in charge of each boat; the restricted requirement being, it is believed, quite sufficient to fix responsibility in respect of irregularities such as had originally given occasion for the regulations.

56. One of the fortunate events of the year 1888 was the settlement with the Chinese Government of the long pending and much vexed question of the provision of a site for a lighthouse in connexion with the southern approach to Hong Kong. The only suitable sites are on one or other of certain rocky islets belonging to China situate some 28 miles from the Colony; and among the various difficulties which have obstructed the settlement of this question, the principal one was the objection of the Chinese Government to cede, or even lease, to a foreign Government the smallest portion of its territory. As the discussion of this subject had been dragging on for many years past and the matter appeared to be of sufficient importance to justify urgent measures and very liberal terms, I caused to be conveyed to the Chinese Government various distinct proposals under any one of which the Dominion of China would remain unimpaired and the control of its Government, ordinarily nominal, might at their option be completely secured, while the whole cost of construction would fall on the Colony.

57. With the valuable and most necessary co-operation of Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of Chinese Maritime Customs, Her Majesty's Minister at Peking was able to secure the consent of the Tsungli Yamên to a settlement which, though differing somewhat from all the proposals made, accepted their main principle; and the work is now in progress, conducted by the Works Department, and at the sole cost of this Government.

58. As the hope of assistance from the Lighthouse Department of the Chinese Maritime Customs has failed, it has been necessary to purchase a steam vessel of considerable tonnage specially for this service. The work has also been delayed by an extremely unfavourable season, for landing can be effected at the Gap Rock (on which the lighthouse is to be built) only in very calm weather, which has during the last year been of rare occurrence. While further difficulty has arisen from the fears on the part of the contractors and workmen that they, on this isolated rock, will become the object of attack from the pirates, who unfortunately still abound in these seas, and whose presence in the neighbourhood may probably render necessary either a guard for the lighthouse-

keeper or cable communication with the rock, as soon as the light is in operation.

59. Owing to these various causes, I expect that both the construction and maintenance of the lighthouse will cost more than was at first anticipated; but even if the expense should be considerably greater there can be no doubt that the object would be fully worth it. Considering that vessels of an aggregate burthen of fully 2½ millions of tons annually reach Hong Kong from the south, and that all those which arrive on dark nights or in obscure weather are subject to delay and danger (sometimes for many hours) which would be for the most part precluded by this lighthouse with its warning fog-horn, it may readily be estimated how enormously valuable will be this work to the trade of the Colony. Indeed it is a matter for surprise that more vigorous efforts were not long ago made to secure so great a benefit.

60. A serious outbreak on the part of convicts employed on works in gangs outside the gaol took place in the month of September 1888, and resulted in the death of a valuable officer besides that of two of the prisoners, killed while violently resisting recapture. My serious attention having thus been attracted to this subject, I found that similar events had occurred not unfrequently in the past, and I became satisfied that, without an utterly disproportionate expense for guards, they were not likely to be prevented in the future, so many are the chances of escape offered by the situation of the island, and increased, as there is every reason to believe, by the powerful secret societies of China, which devote themselves to the assistance of criminals in confinement. A report from the Surveyor General strongly deprecating the use of convict labour on public works under ordinary circumstances strengthened the doubt which I had previously entertained as to its economical value in a Colony where free labour is so cheap, and completely satisfied me that with any additional expense for guards it would mean actual loss. Being, moreover, convinced, both by medical opinion and from the results of experience, that the working of the convicts outside was not at all necessary to their health, I, under all the circumstances, determined that they should for the future be confined to the precincts of the gaol, and I am glad to say that, in the 10 months which have since elapsed, there has been no cause whatever to regret the decision.

61. In May of this year occurred the severest storm of rain and thunder ever experienced in the Colony. During 36 hours there fell some 38 inches of rain, and lightning was constant during the whole time, fifty flashes and more being occasionally observable in a single minute. The effect upon a place situated, as is Victoria, on the lower slopes of a ridge of high hills may be easily imagined. Landslips caused the discharge of many thousands of tons of loosened stones and earth upon the lower levels, uprooting trees, filling reservoirs, blocking and bursting sewers, and raising some of the waterside streets from 6 to 10 feet above their natural level. In one place a strong stone and brick sewer was burst and the 19-feet-deep earth above it was carried away, leaving a gap 300

Hong Kong.

square yards in extent; and huge granite boulders, descending from the heights, destroyed in three places the solidly built cut-stone conduit of the Tytam waterworks. Fortunately but few houses were destroyed or seriously injured, but roads, streets, sewers, and other Government property suffered greatly, costing, it is estimated, $112,783 for repairs. Some few lives were unhappily lost, principally by lightning; and it is matter for wonder that the number was not much larger; indeed when it is calculated how many millions of tons of water fell on the steep incline above the town, it is a subject of congratulation, and speaks well for the general solidity of work, that there was not a far greater aggregate of destruction. In the course of a few months reconstruction and repairs will have removed in most places all traces of the storm, but some of the damage is reparable only by time, and it will take years before Glenealy Ravine, hitherto remarkable for its abundant and luxuriant foliage, and other similar spots, can completely recover their former beauty.

62. Quite recently occurred an incident which at one time threatened a serious complication with China. Two Chinese were arrested in Kowloon, on territory belonging to this Colony, by a number of Chinese soldiers evidently acting under superior authority. There was at first much unwillingness to restore the prisoners on the ground that the place of arrest was not British. But on further investigation it became certain that the information at first received by this Government was correct, and the news having in the meantime arrived that the men were about to be executed, as actually happened in a similar case some years ago, there was immediately made a second and more energetic protest on behalf of this Government, which happily produced the desired effect. The men were delivered to Mr. Alabaster, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, by the Viceroy of the Two Kuang and brought to this Colony.

63. The Viceroy had doubtless been misled by the reports of his officers as to the place of the arrest. They, it appears, had for some time previously been on the look-out for the chief prisoner, who lived on British ground close to the border; and at last, apparently losing patience, they crossed the line and seized him in his own house. I have not yet heard, however, that any of them have been punished either for the act or the subsequent mis-report of it.

64. The arrested men having, after their return here, been tried before a Magistrate on a charge of piracy and murder preferred on behalf of the Chinese Government, they were discharged from custody, the evidence against them being held insufficient to warrant extradition, and they forthwith left the Colony before their release became known to the Government. If, as there seems reason to believe, at least as regards one of them, they were really guilty of atrocious crime, this result is a matter for much regret; but the case will serve to accentuate the necessity of improvement in the testimony produced in connection with extradition charges; and, what is of more importance to this

Colony, it will, it may be hoped, induce greater caution on the part of Chinese officials in respect of the violation of British territory, of which this is by no means the first example, though it is, I believe, the first occasion of the restoration of the prisoners.

65. Among the leading features of the period under report should be noticed the great rise in the price of land. Since 1881 the market value of marine lots has become enhanced at least 50 per cent. on the average, the rise in some instances being much greater, while inland town lots have advanced 15 to 20 per cent. The greater part of this rise has taken place within the last two years, and by way of illustration, as well as to show how great is the present value of land in favourable situations, I may mention that an area of 7,037 square feet, which cost $40,000 in 1883, sold for $70,000 in 1887, and is now refused for sale on a *bonâ fide* offer of $150,000, over 3*l.* the square foot, or at the rate of more than 130,000*l.* sterling per English acre. Another area of 44,000 square feet, which cost $335,000 in 1887, actually sold in 1888 for $465,000, about 32*s.* a square foot, or 70,000*l.* per acre. Another of 33,000 square feet, costing $250,000 in 1886, sold for $500,000 in 1889 (45*s.* per square foot or £98,000 per acre). The price of another of the same area rose in the same period from $310,000 to $500,000, and another of 33,000 square feet, which cost $310,000 in 1882, is now refused for sale at $450,000, or over 50*s.* per square foot. The above instances are all of marine lots; but I am informed on good authority that inland lots, of large area in the aggregate, situate in the Chinese business quarter could not be obtained at a price less than $15 to $20 (45*s.* to 60*s.* sterling) a square foot, or 97,000*l.* to 130,000*l.* an acre.

66. In the Hill District the advance in value has been relatively even greater than elsewhere; as, for instance, from $2,000 in 1879 to $35,000 in 1888; $10,000 in 1882 to $46,000 in 1888; $23,000 (estimated) in 1885 to $50,000 in 1888; while Government land, which could not have been sold at 5 cents a square foot within this decade, has realised at auction from 20 to 50 cents per square foot.

67. The most recent advance in marine lots has been probably due to the prospects of profit from the reclamation scheme mentioned above, and that in the Hill District is, no doubt, in considerable measure owing to the tramway from the town to Victoria Gap (1,100 feet above the sea), worked on a plan similar, I understand, to that of the railway on Mount Vesuvius. By means of this line (which was opened in May 1887, and which carried 148,344 passengers in its first year) residence at "the Peak" is rendered much more easy to those—and they include nearly all the male population of the neighbourhood—whose occupations require their daily presence in town. And from this and other causes the demand for houses at this high altitude has become so great that 35 have been erected within the last two years, and 39 more are in course of construction.

Hong Kong.

68. Each of these houses is built on a site more or less precipitous, the requisite level for buildings and tennis courts being obtained by blasting; and as every brick, stone, timber, and other article used in construction, as well as the furniture on completion, requires to be carried on Coolies' shoulders for distances varying from one to two miles to a height of 1,100 to 1,600 feet,* it may be imagined what has been the labour and cost involved in the work, and why it is that residence at the Peak must be confined to the comparatively wealthy.

69. Another of the leading features of the most recent history of the Colony is the number of joint-stock enterprises undertaken almost entirely with local capital — to which, it may be noted, Chinese have, for the first time, begun to make considerable subscriptions in common with Europeans. Since the beginning of 1888, 35† companies have been formed, with capital already paid-up aggregating $9,508,475, for land investment, manufacture, and trade in Hong Kong and for mining and for planting enterprises in the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, and Tongking. So strong has been the tendency towards joint-stock investment that the shares of most of the companies have been insufficient in number for the demand; and it may be mentioned as showing the amount of capital available for the purpose that within two months of this year the sum of $4,890,000 was paid into the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in connexion with the shares of one company.‡

70. As far as is known, all, or nearly all, of these companies, especially those whose field of operations is in Hong Kong, have good, some of them excellent, prospects of success. There can, moreover, be little doubt that land in Hong Kong will eventually be even more valuable than now. But it remains to be seen whether property in either land or shares is at present worth the high price to which it has been advanced by speculative purchase. It may, indeed, be taken as certain that in a very few instances can the profits within the next year or two afford a fair interest on present outlay; and hence probably arise the signs of reaction which are now beginning to show themselves. If this depression of values should continue, it would no doubt cause much distress among those who have been speculating beyond their means; but any general injury is not at all likely to be other than temporary; and in a Colony having so many solid elements of prosperity it may be taken as certain that, in the absence of calamity, the wound will be very quickly healed.

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* According to a return made for me by the police there are at the present time being carried thus to "the Peak" from 2,800 to 3,000 loads per diem of bricks and other materials.

† There are 10 other companies registered in Hong Kong, of which I have been unable to ascertain the paid-up capital, making a total of 45.

‡ The Hong Kong Land Investment Company, Limited, capital $5,000,000, of which $2,500,000 has been paid up, together with $1,250,000 premium on the second issue. The sum of $1,140,000 paid for shares not allotted was returned to the applicants.

71. Though the absence of any Custom House and of any returns* of imports and exports precludes any certain estimate of the amount of trade, it may be gathered from the above remarks in connection with "Shipping" that the enormous commerce of the Colony is in a condition of healthy progress. We may have not yet felt the full effects of the restrictive measures against Chinese in the United States and Australia, and of the decline in the Chinese tea trade; but there is good reason to think that any contraction from these causes is being rapidly compensated in other directions. But while commerce pure and simple is, and must be for a long time to come, the principal element of our prosperity, it is, I think, from manufacture that may be hoped the greatest progress of Hong Kong in the future. We can readily have abundant and cheap supplies of raw materials; and there is available, to a practically unlimited extent, the cheap labour of China; while we have also, what is absent there, the advantage of general confidence that enterprise will not be unnecessarily hampered and mulcted of its legitimate reward. Already we have seen established in the last few years sugar refineries which are doing an exceedingly large and apparently †prosperous business; we have, moreover, ship and boat building yards, rope works, ice works (now doing a large export trade), and some 30 minor industries enumerated in the Blue Book. But, considerable as is the aggregate of manufacture already, it is in all probability inappreciable by comparison with what it would shortly become if there were to be any important reduction of the price of coal, which, as being almost exclusively obtained from distant countries, is at present very costly ($8 to $16 per ton); and such a reduction may, I think, be regarded as only a question of time. Enormous and as yet completely undeveloped coal deposits are known to exist in China and other neighbouring countries, and there is abundant evidence that the progressive party among the Chinese are beginning to awaken to the advantage of utilising their mineral wealth. Indeed unless all of the various movements, there and elsewhere, for the production of coal in the neighbourhood should prove abortive, it may be expected that the only element needed for rapid progress in manufacturing enterprise will in no long time be supplied.

72. To render more complete the information derived from the above account of events and observations on statistics, and in order to enable a fuller appreciation of the condition and progress of the Colony, it may be well to give, however imperfectly, some idea of its outward appearance from a contrast of the present with the past.

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* There are at present strong objections on the part both of Europeans and Chinese to any provision for such returns, partly because they would involve a certain restriction upon the complete freedom of trade, and partly on other grounds, arising from our vicinity to China.

† The shares of the China Sugar Company, which own one of these refineries not the largest, are now quoted in the market at 130 per cent. premium.

HONG KONG.

73. There must be some still living who saw the island before the British occupation. If one of them, having been absent during the whole interval, were now to return, even the extremely salient and beautiful features of the natural landscape would scarcely enable him to identify with the Hong Kong of to-day what he would remember as a bare rock, with a fisherman's hut here and there as the only sign of habitation, and a great sea-basin only very rarely disturbed by a passing keel.

74. For now he would see a city of closely-built houses stretching for some four miles along the island shore, and rising, tier over tier, up the slopes of the mountain, those on the upper levels interspersed with abundant foliage; while on the opposite peninsula of Kowloon, which was (until very recently) an uninhabited waste of undulating red rock, he would now see, in the distance, prevalent verdure, in the foreground and along the whole sea-board numerous houses, together with docks,* great warehouses, and other evidence of a large and thriving population. Again, the silent and deserted basin has become a harbour so covered with shipping† that, even if he has been round the whole world, he could never before have seen so much in a single *coup d'œil*. At anchor or moving are some 40 to 50 ocean steamers, including ships of war, large European and American sailing vessels, and hundreds of sea-going junks; while in the space intervening and around are many thousand boats, for the most part human habitations, with steam-launches‡ rushing in all directions.

75. Going ashore, our visitor would see long lines of quays and wharves, large warehouses teeming with merchandise, shops stocked with all the luxuries as well as the needs of two civilisations; in the European quarter a fine town hall, stately banks, and other large buildings of stone; in the Chinese quarters houses, constructed after a pattern peculiar to China, of almost equally solid materials, but packed so closely together and thronged so densely as to be in this respect probably without parallel in the world;§ and finally he would see streets stretching for miles abounding with

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* There are several docks, one of them a dry dock constructed entirely of granite, which can take in the largest vessels now afloat in the world, except perhaps the two recently built for the White Star Line. In the Kowloon warehouses of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, all in immediate contiguity, and for the most part under one roof, may be seen at any time merchandise worth over half a million sterling.

† The tonnage return of Hong Kong shows it to be the third port of the British Empire, and therefore (with the possible exception of New York, of which I have no statistics) the third in the world. The aggregate burthen of shipping is greater than that of all the British possessions on the Continent of America, or than that of the four leading Colonies of Australia.

‡ Apart from those belonging to British and Foreign War Ships, there are 98 steam-launches in the harbour.

§ It is believed that over 100,000 people live within a certain district of the city of Victoria not exceeding half a square mile in area. It is known that 1,600 people live in the space of a single acre.

carriages (drawn, for the most part, not by animals, but by men), and teeming with a busy population, in the centre of the town chiefly European, but towards the west and east almost exclusively Chinese.

76. Ascending higher up, he would find churches, public buildings, and many houses, all of exclusively European design (extending now about one-third of the distance up the mountain), for the most part detached or semi-detached, some of handsome appearance and nearly all fronted with stone arched verandahs, which at a distance give somewhat of a palatial flavour even to the smallest; he would see, moreover, beautifully laid-out gardens, public and private, and solidly constructed roads, some of them bordered with bamboos and other delicately fronded trees, and fringed with the luxuriant undergrowth of semi-tropical vegetation; while meeting here but comparatively few passengers he would scarcely realise the neighbourhood of a large population, except from what has been aptly termed "the indescribable hum of congregated humanity" arising from the town and harbour beneath.

77. Ascending still further to the summit of the ridge, he, in the course of a two-mile walk, would observe that not only Victoria Peak, but Mount Gough, Mount Kellett, and the heights above the Magazine Gap, with the many intervening knolls and ravines at a high elevation, are, for the most part, intersected by roads, and studded with houses, similar to those last described, built, in one or two places, so close together as to present almost an urban aspect; and looking down whence he came, he, while no doubt recognising the grand mountain-amphitheatre of his early recollection, would at the same time notice that its arena, occupied by city and shipping, has changed as though by the wand of an enchanter.*

78. Hong Kong has indeed changed its aspect; and when it is remembered that all this has been effected in Her Majesty's reign, and indeed during a space of less than fifty years, on ground in immediate contact with the most populous Empire in the world, by a comparatively infinitesimal number of an entirely alien race, separated from their homes by nearly the whole earth, and, unlike their countrymen in Australia and Canada, living in an enervating and trying climate; and when it is further remembered that the Chinese, whose labour and enterprise under British auspices have largely assisted in this development, have been under no compulsion, but have come here as free men, attracted by liberal institutions, equitable treatment, and the justice of our rule; when all this is taken into account, it may be doubted whether the evidences of material and moral achievement, presented as it were

* Besides the houses and shipping every one of several thousand boats and sampans carries a light after dark; so that, seen from the Peak on a dark night, the wide expanse of the city and harbour beneath has the effect of a nether firmament with more stars in it than a similar space above.

Hong Kong.

in a focus, make anywhere a more forcible appeal to eye and imagination, and whether any other spot on the earth is thus more likely to excite, or much more fully justifies, pride in the name of Englishman.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. William des Vœux.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

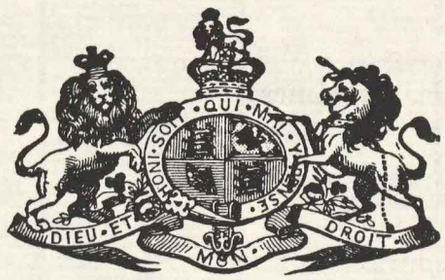
No. 86.

HELIGOLAND.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of the Colonial Possessions Report No. 48.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.–16.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	1887
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	British New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falklands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	,,

No. 86.

HELIGOLAND.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 48.)

Governor BARKLY to Lord KNUTSFORD.

Government House,
MY LORD, Heligoland, February 21, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to forward two copies of the Heligoland Blue Book for 1889, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR BARKLY.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1889.

Taxes and Duties.

No alteration during the year.

Finance.

The revenue in 1889 was 9,577*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, the largest yet collected in Heligoland, the return for 1886, which reached a higher figure, including a grant from the Imperial Government, and other items not strictly local revenue.

The expenditure amounted to 8,080*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1889 were 4,295*l.*, and there were no liabilities except a sum of 10*l.* due on an account presented too late for payment within the year.

Public Debt.

Nil.

Public Works.

The expenditure on Public Works during the year amounted to 1,699*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, against 1,787*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* the year before. The work done chiefly consisted of repairs, of strengthening and adding to the defences of Sandy Island against the sea, of paving and making sanitary and other improvements in the town.

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HELIGOLAND.

Legislation.

Seven Ordinances were passed during the year; their dates and substance were as follows:—

No. 1, 28th February 1889.—To apply the sum of Rm. 156,256 50, to the service of the year 1889.

No. 2, 20th March 1889.—Giving power to Governor to prohibit exportation of warlike articles.

No. 4, 14th May 1889.—Providing summary punishment for perjury.

No. 5, 16th July 1889.—Protection of women and girls.

No. 6, 1st August 1889.—Amending Ordinance No. 5, of 1889.

No. 7, 1st November 1889.—Fraudulent marks on merchandize.

No. 8, 20th December 1889.—To apply the sum of Rm. 170,076, to the service of the year 1890.

Executive Council.

The Executive Council was strengthened in 1889 by the addition of the Stipendiary Magistrate and the Colonial Auditor.

Civil Establishment.

The only change during the year was the appointment of Mr. P. J. Botter as Colonial Auditor. The result of the creation of this new office has proved highly advantageous to the public service.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The last census was in 1881, when the population was 2,001. It must have considerably increased, and may be now estimated at about 2,500.

The deaths in 1889 were 31, and the births 47.

The salubrity of the climate and the remarkable longevity of the Islanders have been frequently alluded to.

Savings Bank and Friendly Societies.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December 1889 was 198, against 175 the year before, and the amount to credit of depositors was 1,212*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* as compared with 770*l.* 15*s.* in 1888. This useful institution is steadily gaining ground with the people, and is now not only self-supporting, but returns a small annual profit to Government.

A friendly society was founded during the year for mutual support in case of illness. It numbers 50 members.

Education.

The number of pupils on the roll of the Government School was 355, and the amount of the school fees 120*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

Fisheries.

A hundred and seventy small sloops and undecked boats are employed on the cod, haddock, and lobster fisheries. These were fairly successful last year, the total take being valued at 5,500*l.*

In consequence of the entrance of Hamburg into the Zollverein an import duty has been imposed there on shell-fish which renders the export of lobsters somewhat less profitable. Nevertheless a considerable number are exported, and the remainder disposed of for good prices during the bathing season.

The oyster bank is now only fished for local consumption. The oysters are large shelled, but of good quality.

Criminal Statistics.

Twenty-five offences were reported during 1889, against twenty-six in 1888, and there were nine summary convictions, against nineteen the year before. No person was committed for trial to the Sessions Court.

Serious crime may be said to be almost unknown in Heligoland.

General Remarks.

The season of 1889 was remarkably successful, and the prosperity of Heligoland at the present time is probably greater than at any former period. The people are contented and orderly, and it is to be hoped that the evil days of debt and political discontent, of which the reports of some of my predecessors drew so sad a picture, are ended for ever. Still the position of an island depending solely for its prosperity on the profits derivable from the influx of visitors from the Continent during the few summer months, must of necessity be precarious. A sufficient sum should therefore always be kept in reserve to meet the deficit which the failure of one bathing season would inevitably cause. Fortunately there are sufficient funds now in hand to create such a reserve, and should the season of 1890 prove as successful as that of last year, there will be a considerable balance available for local improvements and additional arrangements for promoting the comfort and convenience of visitors. When a few more of these have been made Heligoland will have nothing to fear from competition with any bathing place in the North Sea.

ARTHUR BARKLY,
Governor.

Feb. 21, 1890.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

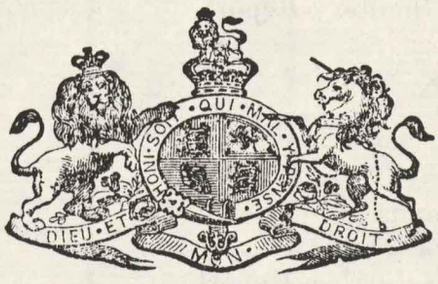
No. 98.

JAMAICA
(TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 52.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.–28.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9

No. 98.

JAMAICA
(TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 52.]

Governor Sir H. A. BLAKE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

King's House, Jamaica,
April 17, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship by this opportunity two copies of the Turks and Caicos Islands Blue Book, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon, for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1889.

1. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue collected in 1889 was nearly 2,000*l.* in excess of that for 1888, and amounted to 8,373*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, which, added to the balance from the previous year of 1,244*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, gave a gross revenue of 9,617*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* The increase was chiefly due to the unusually large export of salt.

The expenditure, which amounted to 7,079*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, was slightly less than that for 1888, and would have been much smaller but for the subsidy of 500*l.* for the regular mail service with Jamaica, which appears as a fresh payment, and for the unavoidable increase in the expenditure on public works, owing to the necessity of making good the damage done by the hurricane of September 1888.

After defraying all outstanding liabilities there remains a balance to the credit of the Colony of 2,538*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, in addition to the amount invested (1,000*l.*) to meet any sudden emergency. Such a result has not been attained without the most persistent and watchful economy, and considering that the tariff is the

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

lowest, and the free list the largest, of any West Indian Colony, that the public buildings have been kept in good repair, and that the extraordinary expenditure due to the hurricane of 1888 was not less than 1,500*l.*, the financial condition of these Settlements may well be viewed with satisfaction.

2. *Public Works.*

No new works were undertaken during the year, as all competent workmen were fully engaged on repairs. Certain works, for which money had been voted, had to be left for some future time, as the material for them could not be obtained, and others had to stand over for want of some one to superintend them. Since the abolition of the office of Crown Surveyor in 1884 there is no officer to whom the Commissioner can apply to furnish an estimate for any proposed work, or on whom he can rely to superintend its execution, and he must himself be the actual working head of this department, as he is of all others except the judicial. With such a system occasional delay is inevitable in the accomplishment of desirable improvements, but no very serious inconvenience has so far arisen, though, should the administration of these small, but widely extended, Settlements fall into the hands of someone with neither taste nor training which would enable him to carry out such works as are necessary, the system would have to be again altered.

3. *Legislation.*

There were nine Ordinances passed during the year, all of which received Her Majesty's sanction. Those of chief general interest were No. 4, "To establish a Government Savings Bank," No. 6, "The Wreck and Salvage Ordinance," and No. 7, "The "Married Women's Property Ordinance."

A savings bank had long been greatly needed here, and its establishment had been proposed more than once, and had been given up, as the difficulties of investment seemed insuperable. These have been surmounted by transferring the deposits here to the Jamaica Savings Bank, and giving a slightly lower rate of interest than is offered by the latter, so as to make up for the time lost in transit. It is intended, however, only to lodge in the Jamaica Bank such an amount as may be sufficient to meet ordinary calls, and for any further deposits a more lucrative investment will be sought. The Bank came into operation on the 1st January, and has been eagerly taken advantage of, as the people having hitherto had no means of investing their savings, used either to keep them in their houses, which led to frequent robberies, or to buy cattle which they could not afford to feed, and which, being turned adrift to feed themselves, used to die in dry seasons.

These islands were, up to last year, included in the operation of the Jamaica Wreck and Salvage Laws, but these latter, which work admirably in an island like Jamaica, where there is a large Customs staff and police force, which can control salvage operations all round the coast, are not suitable to scattered islands like these, where the official staff is of the smallest, and where the majority of the wrecks occur far from the principal Settlements. Under the provisions of the new law increased protection is afforded to owners and underwriters of wrecked vessels, and the settling of salvage claims is greatly facilitated.

A married woman's separate property law has been rendered necessary here by the custom, which largely prevails among the younger men, of going over to San Domingo and Hayti to seek for work, as the rate of wages there is exceedingly high. These men forget the fact that the cost of living in that island is in proportion to the wages, and they either cannot or will not send any portion of their earnings to the wives, who are frequently left behind to support the children. When the husbands are tired of work they come back, and remain idle as long as any of the wife's savings are left, when they again leave them destitute. This is particularly the case in the Caicos Islands, where the wives are left to do all the field work, the men returning only at crop time when food is plentiful, and when they even frequently sell the crops and go off with the proceeds, leaving the wives nothing for their year's work with which to feed the children. It is hoped that the new law will effectually prevent this.

4. *Civil Establishment.*

There were no changes during the year. Mr. Justice Johnson was absent on leave during the first two months and a half, and the duties of Judge of the Supreme Court were performed by the Commissioner. The Government Medical Officer was on leave for six months, and his duties were performed by Dr. Bascome, of Bermuda.

5. *Pensions.*

Mr. A. H. Coverley, late keeper of the gaol, who retired in April 1888 on a pension of 48*l.*, died in April 1889. No new pensions were added.

6. *Education.*

The general inspection showed little change in the state of the schools, the average attendance being somewhat lower, and the standard of efficiency slightly higher, than in the previous year. The school at Blue Hills was closed during the first half year, as no master could be obtained before June, and that at Kew was closed during January and February, until the arival of the master sent up from Jamaica, and again in November and December,

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

after it had become necessary to dismiss this man, who turned out a very worthless character.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports were about the average. There were small increases in nearly every item except spirits, wine, and tobacco, the decrease in which amounted to 350*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* The net decrease, compared with 1888, was however only 117*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* The falling off in the import of wine and spirits may be in some degree due to the growth of the temperance societies, which do active work here; but I am rather inclined to attribute it to the unusually large stock of rum on hand, in the beginning of the year, which made large importation unnecessary.

The export of salt was the largest on record, being 2,108,506 bushels, the average being 1,500,000 bushels, and the largest in any previous year, that of 1876, 2,030,258 bushels. There was on hand in January 1889 a stock of 750,000 bushels from the previous year, and a dry summer and an unusually late season enabled a further crop of upwards of 1,700,000 bushels to be raked, so that, even after the large export, there remained on hand in December last a stock of about 370,000 bushels to meet the early demand this year. At the date of writing this Report this stock has been more than half exhausted, and there are 14 vessels now loading.

The usual comparative tables are attached:—

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the Year 1889 in comparison with the preceding Year 1888.

	1888.			1889.		
Imports.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Alcohol	1	12	0	4	0	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	5	5	8	9	14	0
Bay water	6	0	0	5	2	0
Bread	14	4	5	17	19	3
Butter	64	2	8	75	18	1
Cheese	24	10	5	29	5	3
Cigars	4	1	3	7	16	6
Flour, wheat	495	2	0	528	15	2
Lard	77	7	9	84	8	11
Lumber and shingles	97	5	8	152	19	10
Meat, salted and cured	192	1	9	216	17	7
Oils	32	16	9	40	18	8
Paint in oil	7	7	0	14	3	9
Rice	68	8	11	64	1	0
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	821	11	9	489	11	1
Soap	38	19	3	47	9	0
Sugar	268	1	9	296	12	4
Tea	40	16	6	41	16	0
Tobacco	44	2	4	40	13	3
Wine	28	12	9	11	16	10
Ad valorem duties	723	8	0	758	14	11
	3,055	18	7	2,938	13	5

	1888.	1889.
Other Sources of Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1888—1,287,980 bushels; in 1889—2,108,506 bushels	1,878 7 4	3,074 19 7
Light duties	623 9 4	920 7 4
Auction duties	53 16 9	40 0 8
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	34 3 6	19 17 0
Fees of office	83 2 9	102 15 11
Postage	171 14 5	186 0 8
Post Office Money Order commissions	29 5 7	41 9 8
Liquor licenses	100 0 0	100 0 0
Wine „	58 0 0	58 0 0
Dog tax	14 14 0	9 16 6
Sales, Crown land	58 15 2	228 1 4
Lease „ „	72 6 3	45 11 3
Wharfage and storage	65 5 7	32 7 0
Grant in aid of Mail Service	—	232 14 1
Miscellaneous	113 19 6	302 11 8
Special	40 0 0	40 0 0
	3,397 0 2	5,434 12 8
Recapitulation.		
Imports	3,055 18 7	2,938 13 5
Other sources	3,397 0 2	5,434 12 8
	6,452 18 9	8,373 6 1
Balance from 1887 and 1888	1,971 2 10	1,244 9 6
	8,434 1 7	9,617 15 7
Expenditure for 1888 and 1889	7,179 12 1	7,079 4 3
Balance for 1889 and 1890	1,244 9 6	2,538 11 4

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1887, 1888, and 1889.

Articles.	1887.	1888.	1889.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt	21,409 7 8	19,865 11 8	32,392 8 2
Sponge	282 5 0	287 9 8	249 3 10
Turtle shell, turtle, and live stock	286 0 0	32 18 0	257 12 4

VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1887, 1888, and 1889.

	1887.	1888.	1889.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports	26,726 8 4	28,268 3 11	27,369 0 9

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1881 to 1887; and actual EXPORT for 1888 and 1889.

Ports.	1881 to 1887.	1888.	1889.
Grand Turk - -	584,140	475,942	856,677
Salt Cay - - -	483,238	466,026	490,544
Cockburn Harbour -	508,024	346,012	761,285
Total Bushels -	1,575,402	1,287,980	2,108,506

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1887 - 300,000 bushels.
" " " 1888 - 750,000 "
" " " 1889 - 370,000 "

RAINFALL for the Year 1889 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew, N. Caicos.
January - - -	·33	·16	·49	·80
February - -	·96	·09	1·70	1·28
March - - -	·50	·54	·67	1·00
April - - -	3·14	2·17	3·98	4·40
May - - -	6·53	2·61	1·15	5·66
June - - -	·84	1·93	2·98	3·53
July - - -	·85	1·12	1·16	·53
August - - -	·92	·85	·65	·78
September - -	3·68	3·47	3·70	6·71
October - - -	1·42	·56	1·68	9·94
November - -	2·47	1·15	1·11	2·33
December - -	2·28	1·97	2·21	1·40
Total inches - -	23·92	16·62	21·48	38·36
Average for seven years, 1882 to 1888 - -	26·51	23·26	24·35	45·63

8. *Agriculture.*

A good salt year is necessarily a bad year for green crops, and I have to report a partial failure of these throughout the Caicos. Fortunately, the extraordinary demand for labour at the salt-raking islands enabled the men of the outlying Settlements to earn sufficient wages to make up, in some degree, for the failure of the crops. The lands occupied on the north Caicos were surveyed by me during the summer, and grants are being issued. The survey would have been made long since, but, with the many duties which devolve upon the Commissioner, it is not easy to absent oneself for three weeks at a time without grave inconvenience to the public, and it is hardly worth going for less, as a week must be allowed for the voyage to and fro and for the necessary preparations on the spot, for the people will not cut their lines until the surveyor is actually there.

It is with great satisfaction that I am able to report that the fibre industry has actually been started here, as the United States Consul, Mr. Hance, has leased lands on which the pita (agave rigida) has been planted for some years past, and he has imported and set up the necessary machinery, and has extracted fibre which has been declared to be of the highest quality imported into New York. At present only samples have been shipped, but I hope that in a few years' time the export of fibre will far exceed in value that of salt, while the cultivation and extraction will not only afford steady employment to all the men who can be spared from salt raking, but will also give regular work to the women and boys, who can now find no market for their labour.

9. *General Remarks.*

The most important event of the year has undoubtedly been the commencement of the fibre industry just referred to, and I feel sure that its bearing upon the future welfare of these Settlements is of infinitely greater value than the fact that we have also had to record the largest export of salt ever made, although the "oldest inhabitants," who have come to look on salt raking as the only possible means of earning a livelihood, will probably be the last to realise the truth of this. The salt industry is, nevertheless, perhaps the most uncertain that could be found, as a single day's rain in the raking season will reduce the crop by one fourth, and yet, as it has hitherto been the only possible industry in these islands, the merchants have gone struggling on, barely keeping their heads above water in an average year, and in a good year tormented with the prospect that it may be followed by a "dripping season," which will swallow up all their hardly-earned profits. It is not too much to say that but for the "store," which is the necessary adjunct of every salt merchant's business here, no salt raker could pay his way, and those among them who have attained to even the most modest competence have done so by what they have taken across the counter, not by what they have gathered from their ponds.

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.)

The fibre industry offers no such uncertainty. The pita, which, of all the varieties of agave, grows most readily here, and arrives earliest at maturity, gives as well the strongest and best fibre now known in the market. Unhurt by storm or calm, rain or drought, these plants offer their perennial harvest in return for less labour, and, in comparison with the value of the crop, for far less outlay than any other product of the soil. Nothing seems to injure them but excessive moisture, and that is absolutely impossible in these islands, from their natural formation and from their position, as the lofty mountains of San Domingo and Hayti, lying in sight of us to the south, attract the rain clouds to their summits.

These islands are remote and comparatively insignificant in area, but in this industry they yet offer a sure and lucrative return for the investment of capital, and I am convinced that it is only their being so unknown that has been the cause that none of the capital lately invested in the more favoured parent Colony of the Bahamas, of which these Settlements are the rebellious offshoot, has been diverted to our shores. These islands are by no means so isolated as they are generally supposed to be. They are within 40 hours of Jamaica, three days of Bermuda and seven of Halifax, with which places there is regular monthly communication by Pickford and Black's steamer leaving Halifax on the 15th of each month, and returning from Jamaica on the 27th. From New York the steamers of the Clyde line, sailing at somewhat irregular intervals of three and four weeks, make an easy passage of five and a half days, running hence to the ports of San Domingo and Hayti, the first of which is distant from us only eight hours. Any of these steamers would call at the outlying Settlements to ship bales of fibre, and thus the cost of transhipment, which has to be met in the outlying Bahamas islands, would be avoided.

The soil here is singularly suitable for the pita, and I have seen numbers of plants, only three years old, with fully matured leaves six feet in length, furnishing fibre of the highest quality. There are still large tracts of land of the very best kind for this cultivation, which could be obtained from the Government, and there is also a very large quantity in the hands of private individuals who, not being themselves possessed of the capital necessary to develop the resources of the soil, would gladly part with their lands on very reasonable terms. I can confidentially assert that no islands offer a better field than these for the fibre industry.

I believe that at the present moment the price of fibre is slightly depressed, as, in consequence of the immense profits gained, the owners of henequen farms in Yucatan have yielded to the temptation of cutting immature leaves, giving short, weak fibre, but the better fibre still fetches the highest price. It may be said that, following unvarying economic laws, the price must fall as soon as the large tracts being put under cultivation in Cuba and in the Bahamas begin to yield; but the numberless new uses to which the fibre is being put will stimulate the demand for years to come. I am, besides, assured by actual cultivators, and I have

satisfied myself by lengthened and careful investigation and experiment, that even at one half its present price the fibre industry cannot fail to yield rich profits. If public attention can only be directed to the very unusual facilities afforded by these islands for this cultivation, I believe that capitalists would readily avail themselves of an investment offering such exceptional returns, while in the sure and continuous employment thus opened to them the people of the Caicos Islands would find relief from the precarious existence they now lead in trying to grow food crops, in spite of almost annually recurring droughts, and in watching anxiously for wrecks, which happily grow fewer each year.

H. M. JACKSON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
12th March 1890.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 111.

LABUAN.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 63.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.-41.]

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No.	Colony.	Year.
61	Gambia	1888
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	"
107	Barbados	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago	"
109	Western Australia	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890

No. 111.

LABUAN.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 63.]

Governor CREAGH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Governor's Office, Sandakan,
May 27, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail the Blue Book returns of last year for the Colony of Labuan.

The 1889 revenue amounted to $20,510, being an increase on the estimated revenue of $1,270. The following sums were received in excess of the estimated income:—Land revenue, $1.228; rents exclusive of land, $100; postage, $76; miscellaneous receipts, $223; special receipts, $120; sales of Government property, $61. But only $242 was realised under land sales out of an estimate of $800.

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to $18,728 being $354 in excess of the estimated amount.

A small saving was effected under some of the votes, but under the following headings the estimates were exceeded:—Pensions, $444; Gaols, $65; Conveyance of Mails, 114; Special Payments, $1,194.

Assets.

The balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1889 amounted to $9,629 of which sum $7,129 may be considered as immediately available, the remainder consisting of the loan to the Water Company, $1,500 and the estimated value in Government shares in the same Company $1,000.

Labuan has no public debt.

Public Works.

The Central Borneo Company erected a substantial wharf and coal-shed adjoining the Sarawak Wharf. Government House and offices were repaired, the gaolers' house was removed and re-erected in the neighbourhood of the police barracks.

o 63770. Wt. 19305.

LABUAN.

Civil Establishment

Mr. Leys, the Acting Governor, retired on a pension, Mr. A. S. Hamilton filling his position. Mr. Wilson, apothecary, retired on a pension owing to ill-health. On the pension list the changes were, death of Mr. Cody and Jemadhar Massah, Ah Jack and Salleh; Sir Hugh Low, Mr. Leys, and Mr. R. Wilson receiving pensions.

Shipping.

The following returns show a marked increase in the number of vessels entering the Colony. Men-of-war, yachts, and steam launches are not included in the returns.

Years.	Vessels entered.	Tonnage.
887 - - - -	116	31,689
1888 - - - -	129	37,435
1889 - - - -	190	60,226

The Island was visited by 10 of Her Majesty's ships, one Spanish gunboat, and three Sarawak armed vessels during the year.

Land Department.

—	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	Total for Five Years.
(*a.*) The number of new lots leased in the five years 1885–1889 - -	2	9	19	11	8	49
(*b.*) The number of lots redeemed in the five years 1885–1889 - -	10	16	14	36	63	139
(*c.*) Total land rent in the five years 1885–1889 - -	$ c. 1,480 56	$ c. 1,872 40	$ c. 1,894 09	$ c. 1,071 14	$ c. 1,985 46	$ c. 8,303 66
*(*d.*) Total amount paid for the redemption of land during the five years 1885–1889 -	610 97	285 45	716 15	371 79	1,270 49	3,254 85

* The acreage of land redeemed from rent and the price paid per acre cannot be ascertained from the books. No rents were reduced in 1889.

Trade.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1887 - - - -	370,751	417,551
1888 - - - -	357,954	419,546
1889 - - - -	3 57,282	244,414

From this return a great falling off in exports is noticeable. In comparing the total with that of 1888, however, it must be remembered that the returns were only kept for six months of that year from which the total for the 12 months was roughly estimated.

The opening of sago factories in the Colony has greatly reduced the exportation of raw sago.

The export of rattans has greatly diminished, the quantity exported being little more than half that of the previous year. 8,801 tons of coals were exported from Labuan compared with 8,000 tons in 1888. No returns have been kept of the small quantities of coal exported from Coal Point.

General.

The Colony was free from epidemics, and the health of the inhabitants was good on the whole, the daily average in hospital being 4·7. The daily average of prisoners in gaol amounted to 6·5 compared with 9 in 1888. There was no serious crime during the year.

The excise farms were let for $12,720 the same as in 1888.

The rainfall amounted to 125 inches, being 34 inches in excess of that of the previous year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. V. CREAGH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 80.

LAGOS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 68.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1890.

LONDON:
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1890.

[C.—5897.-10.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
29	Western Australia	1887
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,

No. 80.

LAGOS.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 68.]

Acting Governor DENTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Lagos,
November 26, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward six copies of the Blue Book for the year 1888, together with my report thereon.

2. The delay that has arisen in its transmission, for which I beg to apologize, is principally due to the difficulty which has been experienced in printing it, as the returns were complete in April of this year.

Taxes and Fees.

3. Although an Ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance for granting certain stamp duties," was passed on the 1st September, it cannot be said that any new taxes were introduced during the year 1888, as the operation of the enactment to which I have referred was delayed until the 16th May 1889.

4. A revised and amended scale of court fees, which was passed on the 10th December 1887, came into force on the 1st January.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1887 amounted to 38,918*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and the revenue collected to 57,057*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure for the year was 60,302*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*; the balance therefore on the 31st December 1888 was 35,674*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

6. The revenue compared very favourably with that for the years 1886 and 1887, and exceeded the average amount collected during the preceding 10 years by 5,286*l.* It did not, however, reach the estimate, which was fixed at 63,493*l.* The contemplated expenditure for 1888 amounted to 62,735*l.*, but only 60,480*l.* was spent. Out of this a sum of 6,462*l.*, not included in the Annual Estimates, was for the construction of a new steam yacht, and 6,290*l.* was expended on public works.

Public Works.

7. One hundred and eight yards of the permanent Marina Embankment were completed during 1888, and 478 yards of minor embankments at Kokomaiko, on the Victoria Road, and opposite

LAGOS.

the Oil Mills, were built; the total cost of these works was 982*l*. The construction of new quarters for the constabulary, at what is known as the Oil Mills Compound, was commenced; and considerable additions and improvements, including the erection of a boundary wall, were carried out at the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

8. During the year two much-needed works were completed—a fish market and a new slaughter-house; and 832*l*. 12*s*. 5*d*. was spent on repairs and additions to public buildings and officers' quarters.

9. At the Lagos Prison one block, consisting of 45 solitary cells, was finished at a cost of 435*l*. 14*s*. 7*d*.

Roads, &c.

10. In the Island of Lagos itself the town is fairly roaded. A hardened road extending from the west end of the Marina to Five Cowries Creek Bridge has been made, and is being continued over the strip of land to the sea beach at Victoria.

11. In the Districts the Native Chiefs cleared and kept open some 280 miles odd of unmetalled roadway which connects the different villages and towns. Neither railways or canals exist. The Colony is connected by telegraph with Europe by a line belonging to the African Direct Telegraph Company. There are no local telegraph lines.

Government House.

12. Government House, Lagos, where the Governor resides, is in wretched repair, and, from its design, can never have been a suitable residence for the Tropics. In its present condition it is scarcely habitable; but as it is contemplated to erect a new building very shortly, it is not worth while to call attention to the many defects which characterise a structure which has, in its time, done good service to Lagos.

13. The houses at Leckie and Badagry are small, and not in particularly good repair.

Councils.

14. The only new permanent appointment to the Councils was that of Captain Denton, who took up the duties of Colonial Secretary of the Colony on the 11th June.

15. The other appointments mentioned in the Blue Book were of a temporary nature, and need no comment.

16. The Governor personally presided over both Councils throughout the year.

Legislation.

17. During the year 1888 nine Ordinances were passed, and in due course they received the Royal Assent.

No. 1.—"An Ordinance to make further provision for the administration of justice" deals with the question of an Appeal

Court for Lagos and re-enacts sections 3 to 10 of the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1876 (Gold Coast). From the 23rd February 1886 (the date on which Lagos was erected into a separate Colony) until 17th February 1888, when this measure came into force, litigants were practically denied the right of appeal, and it was to remove this hardship that this Ordinance was introduced.

No 2. "An Ordinance to provide for the succouring of ships' "passengers in certain cases and the recovery of the expenses "thereof," originated through instructions received from the Secretary of State, which were based on a recommendation of the Board of Trade. It enacts and makes applicable to the Colony, provisions similar to those found in section 16 of the Passengers Act, 1863 (Imperial).

No 3. An Ordinance to "allow and confirm certain expenditure "for the service of the Colony of Lagos during the year one "thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven" legalises certain expenditure which had been incurred over and above that provided for by the Supply Ordinance, 1887, No. 7 of 1886.

No. 4. "An Ordinance for granting certain stamp duties" was passed on the 1st September 1888, but did not come into operation until the 16th May 1889. It contains the usual provisions for stamping deeds, bills of exchange, &c., &c., &c., and is mainly based on the Imperial Stamp Act of 1870.

No. 5. "The detention of Quabina Atcheri Ordinance, 1888," became necessary by the deportation to, and confinement in, this Colony of Quabina Atcheri, a political prisoner from the Gold Coast Colony. It only contains the provisions which it has been customary to enact in similar cases.

No. 6. "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony "of Lagos during the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

No. 7. "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the falsifica-"tion of accounts" was found to be desirable in consequence of a case of a clerk falsifying his employer's accounts which came before the Supreme Court of the Colony in August 1888. Its provisions are practically one with those of the Imperial Act dealing with the same subject.

No. 8. "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the fraudu-"lent marking of merchandise" repeals the operation, within the Colony, of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1862, and enacts, amongst other things, certain provisions making penal (*a*) the forgery of any trade mark; (*b*) the false application to goods of any trade mark or of any mark so nearly resembling a trade mark as to be calculated to deceive; (*c*) the making of any die, block, machine, or other instrument for the purpose of forging, or of being used for forging, a trade mark; (*d*) the disposing of, or having in possession, any die, block, machine, or other instrument for the purpose of forging a trade mark; (*e*) the applying of any false description to goods; (*f*) the causing any of the things above mentioned to be done.

Lagos.

No. 9. "An Ordinance to institute a general registry and constitute a registrar-general, and for kindred purposes," provides for the establishment of a general registry of births, deaths, marriages, alien children, and instruments affecting land, and the appointment of a registrar-general.

16. By this enactment section 19 of the Registration Ordinance of 1883 is repealed as far as Lagos is concerned. The uses of the general registry, and the functions of the registrar-general are also defined in it.

Civil Establishment.

18. The Government of the Colony was administered by Governor Moloney for the whole of 1888.

19. Mr. Henry Higgins acted as Colonial Secretary from the 1st January to 10th June, when he was relieved by Captain Denton, the permanent holder of the office. Mr. George Stallard performed the duties of Queen's Advocate and Registrar-General to the 24th May, on which date Mr. Oliver Smith, Queen's Advocate of the Colony, returned to Lagos from leave of absence.

20. Six months' leave of absence was granted to Mr. E. G. Woolhouse on the 23rd August; and from the date of his departure the duties of treasurer were performed by Mr. W. J. P. Elliott.

21. Mr. S. S. Davis, chief clerk and book-keeper in the Treasury, was dismissed the service.

22. Mr. G. H. Ross, Colonial Surveyor, died on the 16th of August; and in October Mr. F. Anderson, Assistant Colonial Surveyor, was selected to succeed him. Mr. Anderson, who was absent from the Colony at the time of Mr. Ross's death, did not take up his duties as Colonial Surveyor until the 10th December. From the 16th August to the 9th December Mr. G. C. Thomas acted as Colonial Surveyor.

23. Mr. Thomas Ross, Engineer of Government vessels, died on the 17th November.

24. Whilst Mr. Richards was acting as judge the following officers held the office of District Commissioner of Lagos:—Assistant Inspector Haddon Smith, 23rd February to 16th July; Assistant Inspector W. Le Poer Power, 17th July to 21st August; Mr. Henry Higgins, Assistant Colonial Secretary, 22nd August to 13th December; Inspector W. R. Higginson, 14th to 31st December.

25. Assistant Inspector Tarbet acted as District Commissioner of Badagry from the 1st January to the 8th March, when he was relieved by Mr. Alvan Millson, who held the position for the remainder of the year.

26. During the time Judge Smalman Smith was on leave of absence his duties were performed by Mr. E. H. Richards, District Commissioner of Lagos.

27. Mr. Peel was absent from the Colony from 13th February to the end of the year, and in his place the following officers acted as Inspector-General of Constabulary:—Mr. G. B. Haddon Smith, from 14th February to 16th July; Captain W. Le Poer Power,

from 17th July to 30th September; Captain A. F. Tarbet, from 1st October to 5th December; Mr. W. R. Higginson, from 6th to 31st December. For the periods mentioned these officers also discharged the duties of sheriff and officer in charge of prison discipline.

28. In the Prison Department Mr. Lee was appointed from England to be keeper of prison vice Mr. Hamelberg, who died on the 20th January. Mr. Lee did not arrive in the Colony until the 12th May.

29. From the 2nd June to the 23rd December the duties of Colonial Surgeon were performed by Dr. Cecil Digby, Dr. Rowland being on leave of absence.

Vital Statistics.

30. As the registration of births and deaths was not compulsory throughout the Colony it is very difficult to give even approximate figures; the population may, however, be roughly estimated at 72,270, of which number 117 persons were of pure European blood. 253 births, 44 marriages, and 970 deaths were registered; 11 Europeans died during the year.

Bank.

31. The only bank in the Colony is the Government savings bank at the Treasury. This was established in July 1886, and has so far done well, the appreciation of it by the public being proved by the fact that the deposits at the end of 1888 amounted to 2,158*l.*

Ecclesiastical.

32. There were in the Colony 31 places of Christian worship supported by missionary bodies in Europe and America.

Education.

33. The number of schools in the Colony amounted to 26, with a total attendance of 2,363 scholars.

34. All schools which are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Education Ordinance are eligible for Government aid, which is based on the principle of payment by results; in 1888, 712*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was granted in the following proportions:—

No. of Scholars.	No. of Schools.	Denomination.	Amount received.
			£ s. d.
1,282	12	Church of England - -	317 17 0
462	5	Wesleyan - - -	103 8 6
452	5	Roman Catholic - - -	230 7 0
167	1	Baptist - - - -	—

LAGOS.

35. The number of pupils compares but badly with the population of the Colony, and the question of effecting an improvement in this direction has been under the consideration of the Board of Education. For the year 1890 the Government propose to offer special præmia for proficiency in Arabic, hoping by this means to obtain a larger attendance from the Mohammedan section of the community. The heathens are more difficult to approach with any hope of success, as the regard which they have for the absurd superstitions taught by their fetish priests renders them opposed to enlightenment of any description. No doubt time will do much to destroy the prejudice which at present exists amongst the lower classes against education; but too much must not be expected, for, with a people having such a suspicious nature as is to be found in the natives of West Africa, it is necessary to exercise the greatest caution in leading them up to progression of any description.

Imports and Exports.

36. The value of the imports for the year 1888 amounted to 442,062*l.*, or 13,014*l.* less than the average of the 10 preceding years.

37. Of this sum, spirits were estimated to be worth 80,779*l.*, tobacco 25,117*l.*, and cotton goods 118,473*l.*

38. Exports show even a greater falling off, as the total only amounted to 508,237*l.* as against an average of 575,847*l.* for the preceding 10 years.

39. This may be said to be due to the unprecedentedly low price realised in the home market by palm oil and palm kernels, the principal products of the country, rather than to a diminution in the quantities exported; as although in the former there was a decrease of 171,458 gallons, yet in the latter the increase amounted to 8,585 tons.

Agricultural.

40. No attempt has ever been made to define the acreage of cultivated land in the Colony, and without a survey it would be difficult to do so. From the amount of produce supplied to the different markets it is, however, evident that a fair proportion of ground is planted up in yams, maize, Guinea-corn and other provisions.

41. The return of lands granted or sold only applies to house sites, as will be gathered from the quantities inserted in it.

Botanic Station.

42. The Botanic station, which may be said to have only been inaugurated in November 1887, made considerable progress during the year. On the 31st December there were 220 varieties of plants growing in pots, ready for distribution, and 51 different specimens permanently established in the Garden.

43. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable one to judge what effect on the country this institution will have, but, when the agricultural proclivities of the natives of West Africa are borne in mind, it is I think, only fair to expect that the inhabitants will take readily to the cultivation of the economic products which it is the object of the Government to diffuse throughout the country by means of the botanic station.

44. A plan, introduced by Governor Moloney, of paying a portion of stipends to Chiefs in plants, has been found to work well.

Gaols and Prisoners.

45. Up till recently the Lagos prison consisted of a number of mud-huts quite unsuited for the purpose to which they were put. New buildings of solid masonry are now in course of construction, and a boundary wall 13 ft. in height was completed at the end of 1887. The proposed accommodation will be entirely on the separate system, and will provide for the detention of 140 prisoners, not including debtors; persons awaiting trial, and political prisoners.

46. The erection of a prison on modern principles was much needed in Lagos, as, in the condition of affairs which existed some short time ago, imprisonment was to so great an extent optional with the prisoner that it was hardly a punishment.

General.

47. As far as can be judged at present, Lagos is in a prosperous condition, but that condition is still capable of much improvement, as it depends on the quantity of produce which can be obtained from the interior country, which would be greatly increased if the trade facilities were better. Unfortunately, Yoruba Land with its 2,000,000 of inhabitants is divided up into about nine tribes, who, though all on good terms with the Lagos Government, are constantly quarrelling with one another, and it is these petty wars which are so detrimental to the commercial progress of the Colony. Were a permanent peace firmly established there can be little doubt that the imports and exports of Lagos would soon be nearly doubled, but this can never be effected until what is known as the Ibadan-Ilorin war is brought to a termination.

48. There can be no question that trade has been considerably developed in the last 10 years, but it is only right to remember that this is due more to the natural advantages of the place, derived from its situation at the mouth of a navigable water-way communicating with the sea, which taps some 20,000 square miles, than to the efforts of the Government. To keep pace with the times it is necessary that there should be sufficient water on the bar of the river to allow vessels of considerable size to pass over it. Up to 1889, steamers drawing 12 ft. 6 in. could generally come inside the harbour, but recently the water has shoaled a good

deal, and now a vessel of greater draft than 9 ft. 6 in. cannot even cross at high water. This is a very serious matter, as six out of the eight steamers which have been built specially for the bar traffic will become useless unless a deeper channel is formed either by the natural flow of the stream or by artificial means.

49. If a permanent work could be constructed which would give as much water over the bar as is to be found within the lagoon opposite Lagos Island, say 24 feet, it would be possible to do away entirely with bar steamers, and save the bar freight of 5*s.* per ton.

50. The Shipping Companies would also be much benefited, as they would no longer have to meet the expenditure of the bar steamers, which amounts to some six thousand pounds (6,000*l.*) a year for each steamer.

51. It is, of course, out of the question for anyone but a specialist to say with any certainty if it be feasible to construct a really good harbour for Lagos by means of permanent works at the entrance of the lagoon; at the same time I consider that it would be quite worth while for the Colony to incur the expenditure for such an opinion, which should not be more than 2,000*l.* With regard to the funds which would be necessary to carry out a work of the description suggested, I will only say that, whilst the duty on spirits is 6*d.*, the Government will not have to look far for a source from which to derive the sum that would be required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE C. DENTON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 82.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 27.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.–12.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
32	St. L - - - - -	1887
33	Hong Kong - - - - -	,,
34	Fiji - - - - - -	,,
35	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues - -	,,
37	Ceylon - - - - - -	,,
38	British New Guinea - - - -	,,
39	British Guiana - - - - -	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District) - - - -	1888
41	Gambia - - - - - -	1887
42	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,
43	Victoria - - - - - -	,,
44	British Bechuanaland - - - -	,,
45	New Guinea - - - - -	,,
46	Newfoundland - - - - -	,,
47	New Zealand - - - - -	,,
48	Heligoland - - - - - -	1888
49	Gibraltar - - - - - -	,,
50	Bermuda - - - - - -	,,
51	Trinidad - - - - - -	,,
52	Turk's Islands - - - - -	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration) - - -	,,
54	Falkland Islands - - - - -	,,
55	Bahamas - - - - - -	,,
56	Jamaica - - - - - -	1887–8
57	Malta - - - - - -	1888
58	St. Helena - - - - - -	,,
59	Straits - - - - - -	,,
60	Natal - - - - - -	,,
61	Gambia - - - - - -	,,
62	Barbados - - - - - -	,,
63	Labuan - - - - - -	,,
64	Grenada - - - - - -	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca) - - -	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines) - - - -	1889
67	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1888
68	Lagos - - - - - -	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago) - - - - -	1888
70	Basutoland - - - - - -	,,
71	British Honduras - - - - -	,,
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73	Western Australia - - - -	,,
74	Gold Coast - - - - -	,,
75	Sierra Leone - - - - -	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports) - - -	,,
77	Hong Kong - - - - -	,,
78	Ceylon - - - - - -	,,
79	Fiji - - - - - -	,,
80	Lagos - - - - - -	,,
81	Victoria - - - - - -	,,

No. 82.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 27.)

Governor HAYNES SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Antigua,
December 16, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1888, together with the report thereon of the Colonial Secretary.

2. As sanctioned by your Lordship, one Blue Book for the Colony takes the place of the five Blue Books which were formerly compiled for the five Presidencies of the Colony, and gives in a much more convenient form the usual information with respect to this Colony, while it also shows the transactions of each Presidency.

3. The figures bring out how the trade which formerly existed between Canada and these Islands has been transferred to the United States on the establishment of easy means of communication with the latter country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
November 18, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency two copies of the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1888, together with my report on the returns contained therein.

2. This is the first occasion on which a Blue Book has been prepared for the Colony as a whole, and the delay in its presentation to your Excellency has resulted from the difficulty experienced in amalgamating the returns, most of which were differently compiled in each of the five Presidencies.

3. The instructions which have issued with a view to the establishment of uniformity in the mode of keeping the statistics and of preparing the various returns will, I trust, considerably lessen the difficulty referred to, and enable the Blue Book to be more promptly transmitted in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
W. F. Haynes Smith, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

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o 61429. Wt. 19305.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY for the Year 1888.

1.—REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1888 was 104,442*l.* as against 105,999*l.* in 1887. The decrease (1,557*l.*) has arisen under "Customs," which gave 68,242*l.* only in 1888 as against 70,700*l.* in 1887. The balance of revenue (36,200*l.*) was made up principally under Excise (8,231*l.*), Licenses (6,174*l.*), Post Office (3,781*l.*), and Taxes (7,020*l.*).

2. Towards the total revenue the Presidencies contributed as follows, viz. —Antigua, 39,522*l.*; St. Kitts-Nevis, 40,069*l.*; Dominica, 17,450*l.*; Montserrat, 5,850*l.*; and the Virgin Islands, 1,550*l.*

3. I attach tables showing a comparison between the amounts collected under each head of receipt in the several Presidencies, and a comparison between the amounts collected for the Colony under each head of receipt during 1888 and 1887.

1887.

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads of Service.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - -	30,685 4 8½	28,228 16 0	7,855 7 1	3,104 2 10½	826 4 4
Piers and jetties	—	1,322 15 1	170 8 0½	8 12 4	—
Excise duty -	2,855 4 6	1,829 13 11½	1,861 9 1½	481 18 2	—
Stamp duty -	530 14 8	482 16 5	140 10 0	49 9 6	29 5 6
Licenses - -	2,080 19 0	2,135 10 11	836 19 0½	296 1 4	146 6 1
Post Office -	916 19 8	1,809 8 3	281 19 5½	160 3 4½	145 13 9
Fees of office -	3 7 6	6 14 0	11 19 1½	3 19 11½	20 11 0
Fines and forfeitures - -	1,145 6 8	957 0 4	357 7 9	55 18 0	9 1 6
Fees of Court -	383 10 2	514 10 9	41 18 4	73 9 10½	15 15 0
Rents - -	1,226 9 3	346 14 4	94 11 3½	56 3 3	2 1 8
Taxes - -	1,989 1 0½	—	3,891 2 11	1,389 11 6	245 5 9
Reimbursements in aid - -	1,916 1 11½	476 6 3	80 9 4	109 11 8½	—
Interest - -	166 10 0	136 15 6	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	132 18 7	455 2 0½	3 15 4	1 10 2	173 6 5
Total -	44,032 7 8½	38,702 3 10	15,627 16 10	5,790 12 0½	1,613 11 0
Arrears of 1886 -	—	13 11 8	74 4 1½	13 0 5	131 18 0
Grand Total -	44,032 7 8½	38,715 15 6	15,702 0 11½	5,803 12 5½	1,745 9 0

1888.

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads of Service.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - -	28,115 12 4½	27,772 10 4½	8,593 13 4½	3,044 15 2½	715 3 1½
Piers and jetties	—	1,263 11 7	270 12 7½	5 7 7	1 3 7
Excise duty -	2,123 13 6	3,243 9 8	2,256 17 0	607 2 3	—
Stamp duty -	620 3 4	527 14 4	184 11 1	57 10 6	—
Licenses - -	2,032 18 0	2,658 5 0	1,070 16 4½	257 7 8	154 8 5
Post Office -	661 19 4	2,041 10 1½	678 7 4½	183 18 4	215 7 3½
Fees of office -	2 11 9	—	13 2 10	4 6 4½	16 12 0
Fines and forfeitures - -	901 3 1	907 4 1½	429 1 9½	31 8 0	22 5 6
Fees of Court -	365 19 8	344 12 7	132 16 9	74 18 5	37 3 6
Rents - -	955 6 1½	322 16 4	76 7 9	49 11 7½	1 15 3
Taxes - -	1,712 8 2	143 0 0	3,465 16 8½	1,393 0 8	305 18 7¼
Reimbursements in Aid - -	1,799 8 8	592 2 3	81 5 9½	117 9 2	—
Interest - -	192 0 0	68 15 4	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	39 2 8	181 18 6	55 10 9½	2 3 0	3 10 0½
Total -	39,522 6 8	40,067 10 2¼	17,309 0 3	5,828 18 9½	1,473 7 4
Arrears of 1887 -	—	1 14 10	141 2 3½	21 11 1	76 13 5
Grand Total -	39,522 6 8	40,069 5 0½	17,450 2 6½	5,850 9 10½	1,550 0 9

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads of Receipt.	1888.	1887.	Increase, 1888.	Decrease, 1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	68,241 14 5½	70,699 15 0	—	2,458 0 6½
Pier and Jetty dues	1,540 15 4½	1,501 15 5½	38 19 11	—
Excise duty	8,231 2 5	7,028 5 9	1,202 16 8	—
Stamp duty	1,389 19 3	1,232 16 1	157 3 2	—
Licenses	6,173 15 5½	5,495 16 4½	677 19 1	—
Post Office	3,781 2 5½	3,314 4 6	466 17 11½	—
Fees of Office	36 12 11½	46 11 7	—	9 18 7½
Fines and forfeitures	2,291 2 6	2,524 14 3	—	233 11 9
Fees of Court	955 10 11	1,029 4 1½	—	73 13 2½
Rents	1,405 17 1	1,725 19 9½	—	320 2 8½
Taxes	7,020 4 2	7,515 1 2½	—	494 17 0½
Reimbursements in aid	2,590 5 10½	2,582 9 3	7 16 7½	—
Interest	260 15 4	303 5 6	—	42 10 2
Miscellaneous	282 5 0	766 12 6½	—	484 7 6½
	104,201 3 3	105,766 11 5	2,551 13 5	4,117 1 7
Arrears of 1887 and 1886	241 1 7½	232 14 2½	8 7 5	—
Grand Total	104,442 4 10½	105,999 5 7½	2,560 0 10	4,117 1 7
			Net decrease, 1,557*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*	

2.—EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the Colony, including the liabilities of previous years (700*l.*), was 116,225*l.*, or 6,949*l.* in excess of 1887, which was 109,276*l.* The civil establishments absorbed 45,450*l.* of the total expenditure, while the hospitals and charitable allowances took 13,486*l.*

Under Miscellaneous there appeared no less than 16,632*l.*, but this large charge is mainly due to an improper classification of the accounts in the several Presidencies.

The expenditure of each Presidency under the several heads of disbursement is shown in the accompanying table, and I give also a comparison between the total amounts spent in 1888 and 1887:—

1887.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	Antigua.	St. Kitt's-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions - -	428 0 11	1,960 12 5	780 10 4	94 7 2½	--
Administration of Justice -	130 5 0	94 18 3	66 14 6	27 6 2	8 5 0
Hospital and charitable allowances -	5,908 18 1½	3,760 19 2	2,264 19 10½	633 9 6	245 4 1
Education -	1,477 4 5	1,264 7 0	246 1 5½	334 17 4	74 0 0
Ecclesiastical -	—	36 3 6	—	—	--
Police and gaols-	1,016 7 0½	1,191 0 8	339 9 7	141 0 3	24 5 10
Rents - -	487 5 0	243 18 8	213 15 3	12 4 0	43 7 4
Transports -	132 0 8	45 5 10	—	--	--
Conveyance of mails - -	489 0 0	607 0 0	--	29 4 0	18 0 0
Works and buildings - -	2,604 18 7½	1,005 2 9	273 6 5½	348 8 6	25 2 3
Roads, streets, and bridges -	3,928 17 8½	2,806 15 7	891 14 3½	255 1 0½	5 11 4
Interest - -	880 14 10	524 12 2	724 0 0	267 8 8	—
Repayment of loans - -	404 5 6	514 7 8	497 10 0	--	—
Military - -	1,520 9 5	2,313 16 11	—	--	--
Board of Health -	1,462 16 1	1,119 10 3	103 3 4½	121 8 10	—
Signal stations -	397 12 11	48 15 4	135 8 1½	—	—
Public markets -	197 15 2	—	15 10 9	36 0 0	—
Registration -	276 13 0	—	—	—	--
Telegraph -	800 0 0	800 0 0	17 4 5	—	—
Drawbacks -	159 8 5	44 7 9	200 0 0	11 3 0	--
Miscellaneous -	6,119 2 0½	3,834 6 6	955 16 0	748 19 9½	243 3 5
Total exclusive of establishments	28,821 14 10½	22,216 0 5	7,725 4 4½	3,060 18 3½	686 19 3
Civil establishments - -	15,464 3 10	17,314 8 8	8,272 14 9½	2,643 3 0½	1,103 5 10
	44,285 18 8½	39,530 9 1	15,997 19 2	5,704 1 4	1,790 5 1
Arrears of 1886 -	329 7 7	649 10 3	676 3 8	14 9 2	298 3 1
Total - -	44,615 6 3½	40,179 19 4	16,674 2 10	5,718 10 6	2,088 8 2

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

1888.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	Antigua.	St. Kitt's-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions - -	485 12 0	1,992 7 1	783 17 5	342 14 2	119 13 6½
Administration of Justice -	200 9 8	82 15 0	60 18 3	52 9 8	18 10 8
Hospital and charitable allowances -	6,270 11 1	3,857 6 11	2,394 1 10	736 10 10	227 10 0
Education -	1,404 16 3	125 0 0	212 3 2½	349 4 2	88 8 8½
Ecclesiastical -	—	35 0 0	—	—	—
Police and gaols -	925 5 2	1,003 4 0	401 13 1½	83 0 5½	46 18 5½
Rents - -	503 12 6	261 8 8	249 6 0	12 4 0	32 12 8
Transports -	164 1 3	37 11 8	14 2 6	31 5 0	10 8 4
Conveyance of mails - -	489 0 0	607 0 0	—	128 3 5½	18 0 0
Works and buildings - -	4,005 6 6	769 18 5	614 0 4½	67 13 10	40 16 6
Roads, streets, and bridges -	4,047 13 6	2,898 1 2	1,316 14 4	343 8 1	6 13 0
Interest - -	941 18 1	559 0 0	739 0 0	245 0 0	—
Repayment of loans - -	479 5 6	609 13 4	548 8 1½	—	—
Military - -	1,139 13 9½	2,276 2 6	—	—	—
Board of Health -	1,556 4 2½	1,342 19 4	518 0 6½	133 8 2	—
Signal stations -	463 1 3	46 17 10	165 10 4	—	—
Public markets -	208 16 5½	—	21 8 4	35 0 6	—
Registration -	363 6 0	—	—	—	—
Telegraph -	800 0 0	800 0 0	66 19 9	—	—
Drawbacks -	172 6 1½	39 11 5	200 0 0	2 16 3	—
Miscellaneous -	6,262 16 9½	8,656 17 8½	1,072 4 10	382 9 5	257 12 2 ½
Total exclusive of establishments	30,883 16 1½	26,000 15 0½	9,378 8 11½	2,945 8 0	867 4 1
Civil establishments - -	15,267 10 0	18,082 9 9½	8,478 13 0½	2,583 19 6	1,037 1 9
	46,151 6 1½	44,083 4 10	17,857 2 0	5,529 7 6	1,904 5 10
Arrears of 1887 -	9 5 4	405 16 10	168 6 11½	—	116 13 7
Total - -	46,160 11 5½	44,489 1 8	18,025 8 11½	5,529 7 6	2,020 19 5

Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

	1888.	1887.	Increase, 1888.	Decrease, 1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	3,724 4 2½	3,263 10 10½	460 13 4	—
Administration of Justice	415 3 3	327 8 11	87 14 4	—
Hospital and charitable allowances	13,486 0 8	12,813 10 9	672 9 11	—
Education	2,179 12 4	3,396 10 2½	—	1,216 17 10½
Ecclesiastical	35 0 0	36 3 6	—	1 3 6
Police and gaols	2,460 1 2½	2,712 3 4½	—	252 2 2
Rents	1,059 3 10	1,000 10 3	58 13 7	—
Transport	257 8 9	177 6 6	80 2 3	—
Conveyance of mails	1,242 3 5½	1,143 4 0	98 19 5½	—
Works and buildings	5,497 15 7½	4,256 18 7	1,240 17 0½	—
Roads, streets, and bridges	8,612 10 1	7,887 19 11½	724 10 1½	—
Interest	2,484 18 1	2,396 15 8	88 2 5	—
Repayment of loans	1,637 6 11½	1,416 3 2	221 3 9½	—
Military	3,415 16 3½	3,834 6 4	—	418 10 0½
Board of Health	3,550 12 3	2,806 18 6½	743 13 8½	—
Signal stations	675 9 5	581 16 4½	93 13 0½	—
Public markets	265 5 3½	249 5 11	15 19 4½	—
Registration	363 6 0	276 13 0	86 13 0	—
Telegraph	1,666 19 9	1,617 4 5	49 15 4	—
Drawback	414 13 9½	414 19 2	—	0 5 4½
Miscellaneous	16,632 0 11½	11,901 7 9	4,730 13 2½	—
	70,075 12 2½	62,510 17 3	9,453 13 11	1,888 18 11½
Civil Establishments	45,449 14 1	44,797 16 2	651 17 11	—
	115,525 6 3½	107,308 13 5	10,105 11 10	1,888 18 11½
Arrears of previous years 1887 and 1886	700 2 8½	1,967 13 9	—	1,267 11 0½
	116,225 9 0	109,276 7 2	10,105 11 10	3,156 10 0

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

3.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The gross assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1888 were 32,987*l.*, as against the gross liabilities of 80,819*l.*, showing excess of liabilities to the extent of 47,832*l.*

The attached table gives the assets and the liabilities of each Presidency in detail:—

Presidency.	Cash in hand.	Sums due.	Sums invested.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - -	11,104 10 5	595 0 3½	3,907 13 0	15,607 3 8½
St. Kitt's-Nevis -	901 6 4½	355 2 11½	11,195 14 2	12,452 3 6
Dominica - -	292 15 3	—	3,911 10 6½	4,204 5 9½
Montserrat - -	647 9 0½	—	—	647 9 0½
Virgin Islands -	76 3 0	—	—	76 3 0
Total - -	13,022 4 1	950 3 3	19,014 17 8½	32,987 5 0½

Liabilities.

Presidency.	Loans.	Deposits.	Due for Money Orders.	Due to Crown Agents.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - -	27,097 1 4½	3,126 18 5	151 5 1	—
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	12,392 15 7	13,110 1 11	—	662 13 0
Dominica - - -	16,501 4 6	5 13 0½	232 13 4	1,664 10 2½
Montserrat - - -	3,900 0 0	51 14 6	—	2 14 2
Virgin Islands - -	—	389 18 5	34 4 10½	49 18 7
Total - -	59,891 1 5½	16,684 6 3½	418 3 3½	2,379 15 11½

(*continued.*)

Presidency.	Due to Federal Government.	Miscellaneous Accounts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - -	—	117 7 4	30,492 12 2½
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	—	59 18 9½	26,225 9 3
Dominica - - -	422 17 11	464 4 4½	19,289 3 4½
Montserrat - - -	98 17 0	—	4,053 5 8
Virgin Islands - -	222 15 6½	61 18 5	758 15 10
Total - -	744 10 5½	701 8 11	80,819 6 4

51,000*l.* out of the amount shown in the column headed Loans was borrowed under special Acts for improving the water supply in the towns and in the country districts of the Presidencies; 3,100*l.* was raised for the construction of roads, streets, and bridges in Dominica, and 3,900*l.* for the protection of Basseterre, the capital of St. Kitts, against floods.

Under the provisions of these Acts, sinking funds have been established with a view to the extinction of the loans at specified dates.

4.—Public Works.

In addition to the sums shown in the Blue Book as expended on works and buildings (5,498*l.*), and roads, streets, and bridges (8,612*l.*), a sum of 3,341*l.* was spent in additional waterworks at Antigua, and 4,786*l.* on similar works in St. Kitts and Nevis. There were also other items of public works expenditure in the various Presidencies excluded from the above figures.

At Dominica the work of making new roads, of repairing old ones, and of bridging of several of the many rivers, was commenced, and has been actively pushed during the present year.

5.—Legislation.

There were 76 Bills passed by the several Legislatures and made law, viz.:—11 by the Federal or General Council; 15 by the Antigua Council; 16 by the St. Kitts-Nevis Council; 22 by the Dominica Assembly, and 8 and 4 by the Councils of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands respectively. Of these 76 Acts or Ordinances 14 had reference to the provision of funds for the service of the Colony, 13 to Customs and taxation; 7 to the improvement of the water supply; and 6 to the prevention of epidemic diseases.

The law of partnership was amended, imprisonment for debt abolished, the establishment of reformatory schools provided for; export duties abolished, except at Montserrat and the Virgin Islands; the Dominica roads cared for, the Montserrat limes and spices protected, and altogether the legislation of the year was of a useful and progressive character.

6.—Civil Establishment.

Mr. W. F. Haynes Smith, C.M.G., assumed the administration of the government on the 13th January, Lord Gormanston, who left the Colony on the 6th January, having been appointed to the government of British Guiana. Captain Irwin C. Maling, the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, acted as Colonial Secretary from the 1st June, Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast), who was appointed to this office on the 13th June, not having arrived in the Colony. Mr. Semper, the first puisne judge, resigned on the 3rd June, when Mr. S. T. Pemberton,

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

the second puisne judge, was appointed to act as first puisne judge, and Mr. J. M. Danaval as second puisne judge.

Mr. C. M. Eldridge, President of St. Kitts-Nevis, died in October, and Mr. F. S. Wigley was appointed to act as President.

The Rev. M. J. Drinkwater, Inspector of Schools and Rector of St. George's, Antigua, died in October, and the Rev. J. Lowndes was appointed Acting Inspector of Schools. St. George's was the last of the endowed parishes.

Mr. C. G. Evelyn was appointed Magistrate at Nevis, vice Mr. Faille transferred to Dominica.

Messrs. C. Musgrave and E. Baynes were appointed to act as Magistrates at Barbuda and Anguilla respectively.

"Government officers" were appointed at Dominica under Act No. 15 of 1888.

There were no other changes of importance.

7.—POPULATION.

The following return shows the number of births, marriages, and deaths registered during 1888:—

Presidency.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	——
Antigua - - -	1,490	242	1,323	
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	2,184	346	1,584	Only 5 marriages registered.
Dominica - - -	625	—	331	34 still-borns included in births and deaths.
Montserrat - - -	493	52	267	
Virgin Islands - -	191	20	92	
	4,983	660	3,597	

I learn from the reports of the medical officers that in Antigua there was in 1888 an increase of 192 in the number of deaths over that of 1887, and a death rate of 3 per cent., exclusive of still-births. There were 557 deaths of children under the age of one year, the rate of infant mortality being 36·3 per cent. Of the births 70·6 per cent. were illegitimate, an increase of 5·8 per cent. over 1887.

Of the marriages in Antigua 103 were solemnised in the Anglican churches, 68 in the Moravian, 19 in the Wesleyan, and 6 in the Roman Catholic churches.

At St. Kitts the birth rate was, the medical officer states, exceptionally high, and the death rate unusually low, while in Nevis the birth rate was an average one and the death rate an excessive one. In the former island the birth rate was 46 per

thousand, and the death rate 36 per thousand; in Nevis the birth rate and death rate were 49 and 36. Omitting still-births, which are included in the deaths, the death rate for the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis would be 33 per thousand.

In the Virgin Islands 67 of the 191 births were illegitimate.

The Government have the question of diminishing the death rate among the infant population under consideration, and a committee has been appointed at Antigua with a view to the preparation of a scheme for submission to the Legislature.

8.—EDUCATION.

I gather from the annual report of the Acting Inspector of Schools that in 1875 the average daily attendance at the schools throughout the Colony was 4,935, and that in 1888 there were 12,773 names on the books of the schools with a daily average attendance of 7,048, or an increase in the latter year of about 40 per cent.

In 1875 the number of classed schools was 44, in 1888 it was 104, and yet the amount of the grant-in-aid remains the same as in 1874, when it was fixed at 3,100*l.*

The Acting Inspector points out that although vast strides have undoubtedly been made since 1875, when there were only 3 first-class schools, 8 second, and 33 third, the annual returns fail to show any corresponding improvement since 1880, when there were 15 first class, 27 second, and 49 third schools, as compared with 15 first, 31 second, and 54 third in 1888.

Valuable suggestions have been received from the late Acting Inspector of Schools (Rev. J. Lowndes) and the Inspector of Schools (Mr. F. H. Watkins) for improving the present educational system, and these are engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

The following tables may be of value in showing the number and denomination of the schools in each Presidency, the number of scholars, and the amount of Government aid earned.

Statement showing the Number and Denomination of the Schools in each Presidency.

Presidency.	Government.	Anglican.	R. Catholic.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Undenominational.	Total.
Antigua - - -	—	16	—	10	12	1	39
St. Kitts - - }	—	10	1	9	6	—	26
Nevis - - }	—	5	—	5	—	—	10
Dominica - - -	13	2	4	3	—	—	22
Montserrat - - -	—	6	1	3	—	1	11
Virgin Islands - -	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
	13	41	6	32	18	2	112

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Of the 112 schools above shown eight, for various reasons, were not classed.

Statement showing the Number of Scholars (daily Average) of each Denomination, and the Amount of Aid earned by each Denomination.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Total daily Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	
Government - - - -	13	686	—	
Anglican - - -	41	2,538	995 13 0	Two receive a special grant from Barbuda funds.
R. Catholic - - - -	6	294	117 2 0	
Wesleyan - - - -	32	1,923	874 0 0	
Moravian - - - -	18	1,341	571 10 0	
Undenominational - - -	2	266	119 16 0	
Total - -	112	7,048	2,678 1 0	

Statement showing the Amount of Aid earned in each Presidency.

Presidency.	No. of Schools.	Total daily Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	
Antigua - - - - -	39	2,459	1,031 2 0	
St. Kitts - - - - -	26	1,654	737 4 0	
Nevis - - - - -	10	747	323 10 0	
Dominica - - - -	22	1,103	193 0 0	
Montserrat - - - -	11	897	315 13 0	
Virgin Islands - - - -	4	188	77 12 0	
Total - - -	112	7,048	2,678 1 0	

In the above table there are included in Dominica 13 Government schools and 686 Government scholars earning no Government Grant.

At Antigua, under an Act of the Leeward Islands, No. 14 of 1878, a capitation grant of 50*s* quarterly is given for each student, not exceeding 20 in all, who may be receiving instruction in the training college of the Mico Institution. The students are selected by the Government, without regard to their religious belief, from the several Presidencies of the Colony.

There was also granted, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1872, a subsidy of 200*l.* a year for 10 years from the 1st January 1883 to

the Antigua Grammar School in aid of the education of the middle and upper classes of the population of Antigua.

9.—IMPORTS.

The gross value of the imports was 405,210*l.*, and showed an increase of 2,622*l.* over that of 1887 (402,588*l.*).

Distributed among the Presidencies the proportion was—Antigua, 145,229*l.*; St. Kitts-Nevis (with Anguilla), 179,585*l.*; Dominica, 49,982*l.*; Montserrat, 27,845*l.*; and Virgin Islands, 3,039*l.*

The United Kingdom gave us 184,150*l.*; the British Colonies, 48,537*l.*; and foreign countries, 160,833*l.* The trade between the Presidencies forming the Colony gave us 11,691*l.*

Of the British Colonies Barbados heads the list with 26,757*l.*, then came British North America with 15,931*l.*, and Demerara, with 4,647*l.*

Of the imports from foreign countries (160,833*l.*), those from the United States alone were valued at 147,531*l.*, the Dutch ports coming next with 5,588*l.*, then the French and Danish with 4,027*l.* and 3,494*l.* respectively. The balance of 193*l.* was divided between the Spanish ports and Germany.

From the United Kingdom the principal imports were cottons, woollen, and linen (58,744*l.*); haberdashery and millinery (26,387*l.*) hardware (12,495*l.*); boots and shoes (7.940*l.*); machinery (4,348*l.*) and manure (9,321*l.*) for sugar cultivation; hoops for sugar puncheons (4,161*l.*); rice (6,459*l.*), and provisions (11,884*l.*).

Barbados sent us a miscellaneous description of imports, and the items from which the total value (26,757*l.*) is derived are very numerous, the chief being dried fish (9,290*l.*) and hair (3,126*l.*). She sent us also 64 mules valued 1,817*l.*, and sugar cane manures to the value of 1,85*l.*

The principal imports from British North America were dried and pickled fish (9,028*l.*), and white pine and spruce lumber (4,995*l.*).

From the United States of America we received nearly one third of our total imports; nearly the whole of our flour, viz.:—46,334 barrels (50,146*l.*) out of 50,888 (55,616*l.*); almost all our corn, or 57,077 bushels (8,683*l.*) out of 59,525 (9,114*l.*), and 13,269 barrels of meal (9,797*l.*) out of 14,242 (10,744*l.*). In the way of provisions the United States sent us 285,580 lbs. of salted beef out of a total of 287,112 imported; 857,381 lbs. of salted pork out of 900,106; 3,842*l.* worth of bread and biscuits out of 4,130*l.* imported and a very considerable proportion (about 18,000*l.* worth) of our other food supplies. Among the other imports forming the balance of the trade with us, I may mention lumber (6,367*l.*), leaf tobacco (3,948*l.*), and kerosine oil (2,726*l.*).

I append tables showing (*a*) the total value of the principal articles imported into the Colony during the years 1887 and 1888,

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

and (*b*) the value of each principal article imported into each Presidency during these years:—

Statement showing the Principal Articles of Imports in 1887 *and* 1888.

Principal Articles.	1887.	1888.	1888.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	18,489	11,780	—	6,709
Boots and shoes	8,169	8,067	—	102
Cottons, woollens, and linens (unmade)	57,734	61,097	3,363	—
Grain	16,815	18,271	1,456	—
Haberdashery and millinery	27,143	26,951	—	192
Hardware	11,960	13,698	1,738	—
Machinery	12,603	4,433	—	8,170
Manures	9,270	11,339	2,069	—
Oilmeal	4,383	5,708	1,325	—
Provisions:—				
Breadstuffs, &c.	67,293	70,490	3,197	—
Salted or dried	54,835	59,666	4,831	—
Groceries, &c.	11,073	9,024	—	2,049
Tallow and oils	12,603	14,627	2,024	—
Tobacco	7,971	4,623	—	3,348
Wood shooks, &c.	25,492	27,665	2,173	—
Other articles	56,757	57,771	1,014	—
Total	402,590	405,210	23,190	20,570

Net increase, 2,620*l*.

1887.

Imports into each Presidency of the Colony.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	5,423	10,407	1,771	808	80	18,489
Boots and shoes	3,103	3,260	1,177	571	58	8,169
Cottons, woollens and linens	18,575	23,251	11,483	4,350	75	57,734
Grain	6,908	9,117	435	296	59	16,815
Haberdashery and millinery	12,956	10,438	1,616	2,101	32	27,143
Hardware	4,120	5,778	1,120	898	44	11,960
Machinery	4,985	1,737	546	5,337	—	12,605
Manures	2,793	4,866	1,553	58	—	9,270
Oilmeal	1,031	3,251	—	101	—	4,383

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Provisions:—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bread stuffs	22,636	35,390	5,644	2,275	1,348	67,293
Salted or dried	18,631	26,973	5,177	3,791	263	54,835
Groceries	3,621	4,574	2,207	556	115	11,073
Tallow and oils	3,676	*4,205	†3,887	673	162	12,603
Tobacco	1,128	2,475	†4,061	279	28	7,971
Wood Shooks, &c.	11,551	10,988	2,004	613	336	25,492
Other articles	24,092	22,875	4,301	5,138	439	56,845
Total	145,229	179,585	46,982	27,845	3,039	402,580

* These figures are incorrect, should be 2,705*l.*
† Includes quantities for exportation to Martinique.

1888.

Imports into each Presidency of the Colony.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	3,694	5,090	2,163	749	84	11,780
Boots and shoes	3,616	2,904	1,170	332	45	8,067
Cottons, woollens and linens	18,373	25,348	12,993	4,107	276	61,097
Grain	8,650	8,808	497	237	79	18,271
Haberdashery and Millinery	12,059	10,457	2,062	2,314	59	26,951
Hardware	5,455	5,855	1,375	970	43	13,698
Machinery	2,273	1,771	376	13	—	4,433
Manures	4,473	4,572	2,167	127	—	11,339
Oilmeal	1,695	3,881	—	132	—	5,708
Provisions:—						
Bread stuffs	25,994	34,718	6,160	2,434	1,184	70,490
Salted or dried	24,232	25,127	6,553	3,576	178	59,666
Groceries	3,208	3,611	1,603	396	206	9,024
Tallow and oils	4,026	*6,848	2,952	683	118	14,627
Tobacco	1,508	1,906	859	328	22	4,623
Wood shooks, &c.	11,419	11,234	2,945	1,631	436	27,665
Other articles	27,117	21,787	5,286	3,335	246	57,771
Total	157,792	173,917	49,161	21,364	2,976	405,210

* Error of 4,351*l.* in this. True figures 2,497*l.*

It will be observed that there was a falling off in the value of alcoholic liquors imported to the extent of 6,709*l.* and that 5,317*l.*

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

of this occurred at St. Kitts. This was probably the result of the increased duty imposed by Ordinance No. 11 of 1887.

The falling off of 8,170*l.* under the head "Machinery" arose at Antigua and Montserrat, these Presidencies having imported largely in 1887.

The decrease of 3,348*l.* in the tobacco trade arose at Dominica, and was mainly the result of the strict quarantine established against Martinique on account of an outbreak of small-pox there.

10.—EXPORTS.

The gross value of the exports was 509,709*l.*, and, compared with that of those in 1887 (452,597*l.*) shows an increase of 57,112*l.* the cause of which I shall hereafter attempt to explain.

The produce and manufacture of the colony was valued at 492,292*l.* or all but 20,000*l.* of the whole export trade.

The direction of the exports was as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	59,970
British Colonies - - -	53,601
Foreign Countries - - -	396,320

The bulk of them went to the United States which absorbed 377,693*l.* worth as against the 59,970*l.* sent to the United Kingdom and the 53,601*l.* to the British Colonies, which includes 36,965*l.* to British North America and 2,494*l.* to Barbados.

The value of the articles sent from one Presidency of the colony into another was 13,547*l.*

The following tables show (*a*) the value of the principal articles exported from the colony and (*b*) the value of the principal articles of produce or manufacture exported from each Presidency in the years 1887 and 1888.

Statement showing the Principal Articles of Export in 1887 *and* 1888.

Articles.	1887.	1888.	1888.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Fruits and fruit juices -	17,142*l.*	18,868*l.*	1,726*l.*	—
Coffee and cocoa - -	469,113 lbs.	526,565 lbs.	57,452 lbs.	—
	9,796*l.* value	8,841*l.* value	—	955*l.*
Sugar* - - -	37,282 tons	37,386 tons	104 tons	—
	352,667 value	396,866*l.* value	44,199*l.*	—
Molasses - - -	15,301 puns.	15,562 puns.	261 puns.	—
	32,349*l.* value	49,304*l.* value	16,955*l.* value	—

Articles.	1887.	1888.	1888. Increase.	1888. Decrease.
Rum*	88,304 proof gall.	59,633 gall. proof	—	23,771
	3,777*l.* value	2,861*l.* value	—	916*l.*
Other articles produced in the Colony	11,566*l.*	9,216*l.*	—	2,350*l.*
Foreign produce re-exported	14,838*l.*	10,206*l.*	—	4,632*l.*
Internal trade	10,462*l.*	13,547*l.*	3,085*l.*	—
Total exports	452,597*l.*	509,709*l.*	65,965	8,853
		Net increase 57,112*l.*		

* Quantities approximate only. Weights and gauges not being given in the returns.

Statement showing the Exportation from each Presidency of the Colony of its Principal Articles of Produce in 1887.

Articles.		Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fruits and fruit juices	£	421	134	8,816	7,834	7	17,142
Coffee and cocoa	Lbs.	—	—	469,113	—	—	—
	£	—	—	9,796	—	—	9,796
Sugar	Tons	14,904	18,190	2,487	1,701	—	—
	£	130,233	189,494	19,831	3,219	—	352,667
Molasses	Puns.	7,872	6,529	471	429	—	—
	£	14,760	15,249	1,439	901	—	32,349
Rum	Proof galls.	—	85,260	3,044	—	—	—
	£	—	3,634	143	—	—	3,777

Statement showing the Exportation of each Presidency of the Colony of its Principal Articles of Produce in 1888.

Articles.		Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fruits and fruit juices	£	664	527	8,362	9,252	63	18,868
Coffee and cocoa	Lbs.	—	—	526,565	—	—	—
	£	—	—	8,841	—	—	8,841
Sugar	Tons	15,819	17,574	1,987	2,004	2	—
	£	160,864	199,426	20,609	15,932	35	396,866
Molasses	Puns.	8,510	6,812	4	236	—	—
	£	28,367	20,436	9	492	—	49,304
Rum	Proof galls.	—	57,320	1,713	600	—	—
	£	—	2,626	171	64	—	2,861

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The first table exhibits a net increase in 1888 as compared with 1887 of 57,112, and that of this increase 44,199 arose under the head "Sugar" and 16,955 under the head "Molasses." It will be observed that while the value is considerably higher under each of these heads, the quantities show only a slight increase and the explanation of this is that while the price of sugar and molasses averaged 8*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* respectively in 1887 it rose in 1888 to 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* and 3*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* respectively.

The increase of 1,726*l.* in the export of fruits and fruit juices occurred at Montserrat; that in the internal trade I attribute to an improvement in the manner of keeping the Customs Records.

The decrease under coffee and cocoa is consequent upon the fall in prices; the production was larger in 1888 than in the previous year.

In rum there was a marked falling off in the quantity exported, yet, as the result of the better price obtainable, a decrease of 916*l.* only is shown in total value.

The decrease of 4,632*l.* in the value of "Foreign produce re-exported" arose principally at Dominica, where the export of tobacco to Martinique was stopped in consequence of the quarantine against that island.

In the preceding pages I have shown the principal trade of the Colony during the years 1887 and 1888 as follows:—

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1887.	1888.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	185,770	184,150	26,367	59,970
British North America - -	16,651	15,931	26,455	36,965
Barbados - - -	23,922	26,757	983	2,494
United States - - -	141,489	147,531	319,772	377,693

And from these figures it is gathered that considerably more than half the whole trade of the Colony in 1888 was carried on with the United States of America, while the trade with the United Kingdom was not one half the value of that with the United States.

I call attention to this as the positions were reversed 10 years ago. In 1878 out of a total trade of 938,833*l.* the United States was credited with 220,402*l.* only as against 571,143*l.* for the United Kingdom.

The imports from the United Kingdom have remained stationary while those from the United States have been steadily increasing. Ten years ago American cottons, boots, &c., were practically unknown in the Colony, now they are imported largely.

The exports to the United Kingdom in 1878 were valued at 383,317*l.*, and in 1888 at 59,970*l.* To the United States they were 100,364*l.* in 1878, as against 377,693*l.* in 1888.

In 1874 the Presidency of Antigua shipped 19 *barrels* of sugar to the United States, in 1878 the shipments had increased to 2,500 hogsheads, and in 1888 to over 15,000 hogsheads.

In 1878 the colony shipped to the United Kingdom 29,617 hogsheads, 2,057 tierces, 4,516 barrels, and 2,836 bags of sugar, and to the United States, 4,394 hogsheads, 1,077 tierces, and 2,388 barrels; in 1888 the shipments were, to the United Kingdom, 1,582 hogsheads, 174 tierces, 6 casks, 2,129 barrels, and 14,132 bags, and to the United States, 26,869 hogsheads, 4,093 tierces, 452 casks, 19,960 barrels, and 43,207 bags. The trade in our principal staple article has been transferred, in the brief space of 10 years, from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

The trade with Barbados and British North America has also suffered by United States rivalry. Barbados gave us in 1878 imports to the value of 91,580*l.*, and in 1888, 26,757*l.* only, a decrease of 64,823*l.* Most of the articles which were formerly sent to us from the United States *viâ* Barbados are now obtained from the shippers direct, and hence the diminished trade.

With British North America our trade has fallen off principally in those articles which are her special industries and with which she ought, one would think, to be able to supply us at a cheaper rate than her rival.

Take, for instance, "dried fish"; in 1878 British North America sent us 14,286 cwts. as against 1,618 received from the United States, and in 1888 the United States sent us 3,815 cwts. as against 8,993 cwts. from British North America.

Then, with regard to white pine and spruce lumber, in 1878 British North America sent us this to the value of 7,295*l.*, and in 1888 to the value of 4,995*l.* only. On the other hand, the United States sent us 2,075*l.* only in 1878, and 5,102*l.* in 1888.

Perhaps, however, when it is remembered that no mail or telegraphic communication exists between this Colony and any part of British North America except *viâ* New York and that the Money Order and Parcels Post systems do not extend there, it is not surprising, though much to be regretted, that her trade with this Colony, formerly of some importance, has gradually but sensibly suffered at the hands of her more enterprising neighbour.

11.—SHIPPING.

The appended statement shows that in 1888 the total tonnage of the vessels entered and cleared was six times that of the year 1878 and eight times that of the year 1873.

In the inspection of these returns it must not be forgotten that the same vessel is returned several times, for instance the Royal

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Mail Steamer calling at Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts, and Nevis will be shown five times.

Statement showing the Total Tonnage of British and Foreign Vessels Entered and Cleared.

Presidency.	1873.	1878.	1883.	1888.
Antigua.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
British - - - -	41,322	41,741	338,305	347,245
Foreign - - - -	9,598	18,426	23,915	19,244
St. Kitts-Nevis.				
British - - - -	64,285	64,740	346,127	392,480
Foreign - - - -	20,549	39,485	29,934	18,462
Dominica.				
British - - - -	16,670	19,225	307,687	272,150
Foreign - - - -	2,031	6,750	9,268	2,321
Montserrat.				
British - - - -	12,456	14,024	53,605	311,768
Foreign - - - -	757	3,139	2,430	1,576
Virgin Islands.				
British - - - -	8,586	8,318	5,500	8,718
Foreign - - - -	320	67	254	404
Total for the Colony { British	143,319	148,048	1,051,224	1,332,361
Total for the Colony { Foreign	33,255	67,867	65,801	42,007
Total - -	176,574	215,915	1,117,025	1,374,368

12.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the number of offences reported to the police in each of the Presidencies and the total number of convictions and acquittals for the last four years :—

Offences Reported.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Antigua - - - -	6,033	5,939	6,363	5,529
St. Kitts-Nevis - - -	5,345	5,460	5,694	5,421
Dominica - - - -	2,189	1,917	2,064	2,441
Montserrat - - -	—	513	591	493
Virgin Islands - -	102	118	73	175
	13,669	13,947	14,785	14,059

Offences Reported.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Summary Convictions.				
1. Offences against the person -	1,790	1,806	1,588	1,779
2. Prædial Larceny - -	549	364	323	358
3. Offences against property, other than prædial larceny - -	969	923	822	714
4. Other offences - - -	3,821	3,772	4,092	3,496
Convictions in Superior Courts.				
1. Offences against the person -	50	35	29	39
2. Prædial Larceny - -	—	1	7	—
3. Offences against property, other than prædial larceny - -	52	33	35	39
4. Other offences - - -	5	4	6	8
Acquittals.				
1. In the Inferior Courts - -	2,282	1,956	2,232	2,177
2. In the Superior Courts - -	49	27	42	49

As will be observed from the table below the per-centage of crime is remarkably small :—

Presidency.	Offences. 1888.	Population according to Census of 1881.	Per-centage.
Antigua - - - -	5,529	34,321	16·1
St. Kitts-Nevis - - -	5,421	44,220	12·2
Dominica - - - -	2,441	28,211	8·6
Montserrat - - - -	493	10,083	4·8
Virgin Islands - - -	175	5,287	3·4

13.—Gaols.

There were 1,923 persons committed to and distributed among the six common gaols of the Colony ; of these 1,208 were men, 618 women, and 97 juveniles. 1,760 only were committed for penal imprisonment, 404 had been once previously convicted, 299 twice, and 549 thrice or more.

There were no escapes from any of the prisons and only one death, this occurred at Antigua. The punishments in all the prisons numbered 226, the greater number 107, having been inflicted in the Antigua prison, but this is accounted for by the fact that it contains all the "long-sentenced prisoners," that is to say, those who have been committed for more than six months.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

At the end of the year the Antigua prison contained 25 prisoners from St. Kitts-Nevis, seven from Dominica, three from Montserrat. and two from the Virgin Islands.

The cost of the six prisons in 1888, is shown at 3,435*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, no credit being given for the earnings of the inmates.

The industrial mark system has lately been introduced into the Antigua prison, and it is proposed, while more rigidly enforcing the prison discipline generally, to improve the method of utilizing the labour of the prisoners and of calculating and recording the value of such labour.

14.—Hospitals and Asylums.

The appended table shows the number of admissions into and discharges from the hospitals in each Presidency during the year:—

Presidency.	Remaining, end of 1887.	Admissions.		Discharges.			Deaths.
		Male.	Female.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua - -	135	453	451	362	400	—	169
St. Kitts-Nevis -	207	527	351	459	230	29	149
Dominica - -	78	204	142	258	56	12	28
Montserrat - -	10	33	42	43	14	5	8
Virgin Islands -	10	8	7	8	5	—	4
Total - -	440	1,225	993	1,130	705	46	358

The Senior Medical Officer at Antigua has divided the cases treated under the following heads:—

Diseases.	Number.	Deaths.
Febrile - - - - -	147	7
Constitutional - - - -	620	177
Local diseases - - - -	1,392	161
Yaws - - - - -	149	1
Pyæmia - - - - -	2	2
Yellow or other Endemic Fever - -	94	10

15.—Lunatic Asylums.

The Asylums at Antigua, of which there are two, one at Rat Island in the harbour of St. John's, and connected with the town by a causeway, the other at the Ridge, a hill near English harbour some 330 feet in height, receive lunatics from all the Presidencies

Rat Island Asylum takes those whose mental disorder is of a severe or dangerous character, the Ridge Asylum those who are transferred from Rat Island temporarily relieved. This latter was only established in 1888.

There were at Rat Island, at the end of 1887, 91 cases (36 males 55 females), and during 1888 there were admitted 27 new cases (19 males, 8 females); two males and two females were discharged cured, and 26 males and 19 females were transferred to the Ridge as relieved.

The deaths at Rat Island numbered 13, and one man died suddenly on his journey to the Ridge.

At the end of the year there remained at the former asylum 56 patients (24 males 32 females), and at the latter 36 (20 males, 16 females).

There is also on Rat Island, at the western extremity and separated from the lunatic asylum by a high brick wall, an asylum for lepers. In it there were at the end of 1887 12 males and 15 females, and to these were added during the year nine other cases (four males and five females). There were seven deaths and two desertions.

No law for the compulsory segregation of lepers exists, but the question is now under the consideration of the Government.

16.—Poor House—Antigua.

At the end of 1887 there were 68 inmates (22 males, 46 females); 35 males and 35 females were admitted in 1888, and 35 males and 34 females discharged, leaving at the end of the year 69 inmates, 21 males and 48 females. One male inmate died in 1888. The cost of the Poor House was 902*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* (Salaries 103*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, provisions, necessaries, &c., 791*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and petty repairs, 7*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*)

Outdoor relief was extended to 54 males and 189 females.

17.—Sanitation.

The Sanitary arrangements of the Colony are entrusted in each Presidency to a "Board of Health" whose powers are defined by the local laws. This system has worked satisfactorily, although suggestions have been made for extending the powers conferred upon the St. Kitts Board.

At Antigua the Board worked strenuously under the Act No. 11. of 1885 to abolish the highly obnoxious cesspit and introduce the portable dry-earth closet arrangement, and their efforts met with considerable success.

I believe that in one or more of the towns in Lancashire the portable dry-earth closet system is in general use, and that the authorities who superintend the arrangements convert the refuse removed daily into valuable manure, a course which might, I think, with advantage be adopted here where there is a large quantity of manure annually imported for the sugar cane-fields.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

18.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The records kept at St. John's, Antigua (Longitude 61·57 W., Latitude 17·10 N.), show the mean barometric pressure for the year as 30·12, the air temperature 83·5, and the total rainfall 50·12 inches.

The highest barometric pressure was 30·29 on the 14th January, and the lowest 29·87, on the 3rd November.

The highest mean monthly temperature was in July, viz., 86·8, and the lowest in February, viz., 80·1.

The greatest rainfall was in August, when 7·46 inches were recorded for the month, and the lowest in December, when 1·62 inches were recorded.

The above information has been obtained from memoranda kept at the Government library, but its complete accuracy is doubtful.

It is proposed that the Government analyst shall in future take meteorological observations and with this object a set of instruments has been ordered from England.

19.—SAVINGS BANKS.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands is the only one in which there is no Savings Bank.

That at Antigua (St. John's) was first established in 1847 as a private concern. In 1859 the cashier absconded with some of the money, but the Government guaranteed the deposits, and worked off the debt. The bank was placed under the control of the Board of Audit in 1864, and taken over by the Government in 1871, under an Act of the Legislature, No. 40, dated 23rd December 1868.

The Savings Banks at St. Kitts and Nevis were established by the Government by Acts Nos. 2 and 2, dated 20th January 1879, and 10th January 1882 respectively, and those at Dominica and Montserrat by Acts Nos. 10 and 6, dated 25th October 1873 and 8th November 1873 respectively.

I attach returns showing, for each bank, the number of depositors, and the amount deposited and invested.

Antigua (St. John's).

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Amount invested.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1871 - -	445	9,792 12 1	—
1876 - -	664	11,606 17 5	2,500 0 0
1881 - -	886	22,455 9 5	13,538 0 0
1886 - -	956	32,094 9 9	23,428 0 0
1888 - -	1,050	35,348 14 2	27,533 0 9

Year.	St. Kitts. No. of Depositors.	St. Kitts. Amount.	Nevis. No. of Depositors.	Nevis. Amount.	Amount Invested.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1873 - - -	27	696 12 9	—	—	—
1876 - - -	20	414 10 0	8	25 16 2½	—
1881 - - -	68	1,932 14 11	33	314 18 1	K. 1,875 0 0 N. 150 0 0
1886 - - -	153	3,169 17 7	53	1,783 12 10	K. 3,244 13 7 N. 1,600 0 0
1888 - - -	235	6,083 6 11	65	2,719 8 4	K. 5,994 13 7 N. 2,650 0 0

Dominica.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Amount invested.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1873 - -	Nil.	First transaction 30th January 1874.	
1876 - -	20	52 3 0	—
1881 - -	45	695 0 4	607 10 0
1886 - -	93	1,453 11 11	1,400 0 0
1888 - -	130	3,376 8 8	3,150 0 0

Montserrat.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Amount invested.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1873 - -	3	6 2 6	Nil.
1876 - -	7	82 0 11	Nil.
1881 - -	30	503 17 6	350 0 0
1886 - -	75	2,193 12 1	1,959 8 4
1888 - -	78	2,547 9 8	2,208 8 4

The following returns show the numbers of each class of deposits in the several banks during the last 10 years. From these it will be seen that while the Antigua bank is fairly well appreciated, those in the other Presidencies have not met with

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

much encouragement. There is a large and thriving population at St. Kitts, and I do not quite understand why the bank there is not fully as successful as that at Antigua.

1878.

Island.	Under 1*l.*	1*l.* to 10*l.*	10*l.* to 20*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*	60*l.* to 70*l.*	70*l.* to 80*l.*	80*l.* to 90*l.*	90*l.* to 100*l.*	Over 100*l.*
Antigua - - -	188	339	84	35	37	14	13	12	6	7	6	44
St. Kitts - - -	1	12	2	1	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	3
Nevis - - - -	—	13	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica - - -	4	7	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat - - -	4	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals - -	197	378	96	38	42	19	13	12	7	7	6	47

1881.

Island.	Under 1*l.*	1*l.* to 10*l.*	10*l.* to 20*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*	60*l.* to 70*l.*	70*l.* to 80*l.*	80*l.* to 90*l.*	90*l.* to 100*l.*	Over 100*l.*
Antigua - -	213	368	105	40	29	22	24	15	10	6	7	47
St. Kitts -	9	25	12	6	3	1	1	2	—	1	1	7
Nevis - -	2	18	10	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica -	10	24	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1
Montserrat -	5	9	6	4	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
Totals -	239	444	137	53	35	26	28	19	11	7	8	55

1882.

Island.	Under 1*l.*	1*l.* to 10*l.*	10*l.* to 20*l.*	20*l.* to 30*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*	60*l.* to 70*l.*	70*l.* to 80*l.*	80*l.* to 90*l.*	90*l.* to 100*l.*	Over 100*l.*
Antigua - -	294	419	123	44	21	20	9	10	15	8	10	83
St. Kitts -	41	80	38	14	9	7	5	3	2	4	3	23
Nevis - -	6	20	11	6	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	14
Dominica -	11	53	24	9	8	3	4	3	4	—	1	10
Montserrat -	16	28	9	—	4	3	1	3	1	1	—	12
Totals -	368	600	205	73	45	34	22	20	22	13	14	142

20.—PUBLIC MARKETS.

There are public markets in each of the Presidencies. That at Antigua was established in 1862 under an Act (No. 178), passed on the 30th January 1862. It is maintained at an annual cost of about 200*l.*, the annual receipts since 1883 averaging 375*l.* The attached return shows the market sales, &c., for six years. I am unable to give similar information concerning the markets in the other Islands.

Animals, &c.	Number.	Years.					
		1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Oxen - -	Head -	656	742	679	639	699	715
Sheep and goats -	„ -	2,186	1,879	1,998	1,862	1,680	1,931
Pigs - - -	„ -	1,117	990	861	899	1,007	1,136
Turtle - -	„ -	47	41	30	31	24	42
Vegetables - -	Loads -	10,405	8,980	7,714	8,063	6,142	7,865
Fish - - -	Baskets -	5,871	5,964	5,688	5,825	7,178	5,230
Rents for stalls -	—	£130	£141	£127	£136	£133	£103

FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

November 18, 1889.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE.
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 105.

MALTA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 57.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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1890.

[C.—5897.–35.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
55	Bahamas	1888
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889

No. 105.

MALTA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 57.]

Sir H. A. SMYTH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, June 30, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for 1889.

2. As soon as the Blue Book has been printed copies shall be forwarded to your Lordship as usual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. SMYTH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office,
June 27, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1889 :—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - -	142,069	81,684	223,753
1887 - - -	145,786	73,399	219,185
1888 - - -	156,600	83,546	240,146
	444,455	238,629	683,084
Average of the three years - -	148,152	79,543	227,695
Revenue in 1889 -	161,871	89,304	251,175
Increase in 1889 -	13,719	9,761	23,480

o 63510. Wt. 19305.

MALTA.

The following table compares the actual revenue for 1889 with that of 1888 :—

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888 - - -	156,600	83,546	240,146
1889 - - -	161,871	89,304	251,175
Increase -	5,271	5,758	11,029

The following table compares the revenue in 1889 with the revenue as estimated :—

Heads of Revenue	Estimate.	Actual Revenue.	Excess.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - -	148,151 0 0	161,871 5 0	13,720 5 0	—
Quarantine dues - - -	—	440 19 3	440 19 3	—
Land revenue - - - -	14,963 0 0	15,079 15 7½	116 15 7½	—
Rents, exclusive of land - -	23,289 0 0	23,656 8 9¾	367 8 9¾	—
Licenses - - - - -	3,359 0 0	5,075 14 6	1,716 14 6	—
Postage - - - - -	8,958 0 0	9,850 14 4	892 14 4	—
Fines and forfeitures, &c. - -	5,654 0 0	5,918 7 10¾	264 7 10¾	—
Fees of office - - - -	2,530 0 0	3,403 15 3	873 15 3	—
Reimbursements in aid of expenses -	3,678 0 0	4,397 1 1¾	719 1 1¾	—
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	2,279 0 0	2,118 17 4¾	—	160 2 7¼
Interest - - - - -	10,071 0 0	11,388 12 1	1,317 12 1	—
Water dues - - - -	1,600 0 0	4,036 4 5½	2,436 4 5½	—
Special receipts - - - -	3,800 0 0	3,937 18 9	137 18 9	—
Total - - -	228,332 0 0	251,175 14 6	23,003 17 1¼	160 2 7¼
	—	—	160 2 7¼	—
Actual excess - -	—	—	22,843 14 6	—

The following table compares the revenue received in 1889 with that received in 1888:—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount collected in 1888.	Amount collected in 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	156,600 0 5	161,871 5 0	5,271 4 7	—
Quarantine dues	562 9 8	440 19 3	—	121 10 5
Land revenue	14,957 5 9¾	15,079 15 7½	122 9 9¾	—
Rent, exclusive of land	22,944 7 1½	23,656 8 9¾	712 1 8½	—
Licenses	3,915 5 0	5,075 14 6	1,160 9 6	—
Postage	9,710 10 0	9,850 14 4	140 4 4	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	5,727 4 8¾	5,918 7 10¾	191 3 2	—
Fees of office	2,596 0 10	3,403 15 3	807 14 5	—
Reimbursement in aid of expenses	3,462 3 0½	4,397 1 1½	934 18 1½	—
Miscellaneous receipts	2,263 19 4½	2,118 17 4¾	—	145 1 11¾
Interest	9,162 15 7¾	11,388 12 1	2,225 16 5¼	—
Water dues	4,380 13 10	4,036 4 5½	—	344 9 4½
Special receipts	3,862 18 1	3,937 18 9	75 0 8	—
Total	40,145 13 6½	251,175 14 6	11,641 2 8¾	611 1 9¾
	—	—	611 1 9¼	—
Actual increase	—	—	11,030 0 11½	—

Expenditure.

	Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886	90,473	180,934	271,407
1887	88,625	150,562	239,187
1888	90,477	121,836	212,313
	269,575	453,332	722,907
Average	89,858	151,111	240,969
1889	93,910	135,793	229,703
Increase	4,052	—	—
Decrease	—	15,318	11,266

MALTA.

The following table compares the actual expenditure in 1889 with the estimate of expenditure:—

	Estimate.	Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	95,945 0 0	93,909 15 3	—	2,035 4 9
Exclusive of establishments	169,864 12 10	135,793 14 7	—	34,070 18 3½
Total	265,809 12 10	229,703 9 10	—	36,106 3 0

The following is a comparison of the expenditure for 1889 with the expenditure for 1888:—

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure in 1888.	Expenditure in 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments.				
Civil	11,157 17 2	12,047 4 7	889 7 5	—
Revenue	8,319 3 5	8,659 17 7	340 14 2	—
Legislative	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—
Judicial	9,680 16 2	9,786 8 8	105 12 6	—
Police	20,503 13 1	21,262 16 9	759 3 8	—
Prisons	1,341 11 2	1,391 14 10	50 3 8	—
Ecclesiastical	676 15 0	676 15 0	—	—
Educational	15,065 5 2	15,790 13 7	725 8 5	—
Charitable	10,148 13 10	10,269 8 10	120 15 0	—
Clerical establishment	10,906 16 10	11,262 7 8	355 10 10	—
Messengers' do.	2,326 9 10	2,412 7 9	85 17 11	—
Crown Agents	150 0 0	150 0 0	—	—
Total	90,477 1 8	93,909 15 3	3,432 13 7	—
Exclusive of Establishments.				
Civil	452 15 11	580 17 2	128 1 3	—
Revenue	5,831 10 11½	7,142 15 5	1,311 4 5½	—
Legislative	701 2 5	903 11 1	202 8 8	—
Judicial	2,449 0 7	2,667 10 11	218 10 4	—
Police	1,032 7 0	1,586 12 1	554 5 1	—
Prisons	1,746 9 4	1,686 3 7	—	60 5 9
Ecclesiastical	577 12 1	645 10 0	67 17 11	—
Educational	1,693 14 8	1,805 6 0	111 11 4	—
Charitable	23,677 3 6	23,980 10 6	303 7 0	—
Pensions	14,539 15 4	13,725 6 9½	—	814 8 6½
Works and buildings	27,662 9 2	59,145 9 8½	16,814 3 3½	—
Roads, streets, bridges, &c.	14,668 17 3			
Rent	1,256 19 4	1,264 13 10	7 14 6	—
Interest	1,830 10 6	3,064 17 7	1,234 7 1	—

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure in 1888.	Expenditure in 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Burthen on property - - -	1,734 6 2	1,735 8 6	1 2 4	—
Drawbacks, &c. - - - -	3,109 2 3½	3,440 14 2	331 11 10½	—
Stationery - - - -	994 10 9	972 1 0	—	22 9 9
Transport - - - -	2,027 18 7	2,120 19 1	93 6	—
Military contributions - - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services - -	10,849 14 5½	4,325 7 2	—	6,524 7 3½
Total - - -	121,836 0 3½	135,793 14 7	21,379 5 7½	7,421 11 1
Grand Total - -	212,313 1 11½	229,703 9 10	24,811 19 2½	7,421 11 1

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1889 :—

No. I.

To make provisions for the formation of a Maltese militia force (voluntary enlistment), and for the training, exercise, and discipline thereof.

No. II.

To exempt the rector *pro tempore* of the College of Saint Ignatius at St. Julian's from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. III.

To make some provisions to prevent the spreading of certain diseases.

No. IV.

To authorise the head of the Government to prohibit, in certain cases, the exportation or conveyance by sea of certain articles.

No. V.

For applying a sum not exceeding 2,311*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* to the service of the year 1888.

No. VI.

For applying a sum not exceeding 205,847*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the service of the year 1889.

No. VII.

To amend the Police Law.

No. VIII.

To exempt the congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. IX.

To make some provisions to regulate the importation of petroleum.

No. X.

For better securing the collection of import duties

No. XI.

To amend the law respecting the duty of importation on wines and spirits.

No. XII.

For the better control and management of the university and other educational establishments.

No. XIII.

To encourage inventions and improvements in mechanical contrivances and processes of industrial manufacture.

No. XIV.

To check abuses in the publication of printed writings.

No. XV.

To apply a sum not exceeding 184,756*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* to the service of the year 1890.

Civil Establishment.

The changes in offices during the year were the following:—

Gerald Strickland, C.M.G., Count della Catena, has been appointed Chief Secretary to Government, instead of Sir W. Hely Hutchinson, K.C.M.G., promoted to a Governorship; Mr. A. Sciortino appointed Auditor General and Director of Contracts, in lieu of Mr. G. Cousin, M.D., who was transferred to the situation of Receiver General; Mr. Pasquale Mifsud, LL.D., appointed one of Her Majesty's Judges, vice Mr. P. Vella, C.M.G., LL.D., superannuated; Mr. Daniel Fallon, appointed Professor of English Literature, in the place of Mr. R. H. Domenichetti, B.A., resigned; Mr. A. Sarreo, appointed teacher of Arabic in the Lyceum, instead of Mr. R. Casolani, pensioned; Mr. Thomas Rawley, appointed teacher of geography, vice Marquis L. Testaferrata Olivier, resigned; and Mr. Francesco Debono, M.D., appointed Assistant Medical Officer in the Central Hospital in the place of Mr. E. Manara, M.D., resigned.

Population.

The population of these islands on the 31st December was reported to be as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Malta - - -	71,737	72,749	144,486	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo - - -	9,386	9,978	19,364	
Total - -	81,123	82,727	163,850	

Showing an increase of 741 males and 686 females on the population as on 31st December 1888.

The number of births was 6,435, marriages 1,064, and deaths 5,008.

Savings Bank.

The amount of deposits in the savings bank was as follows :—

	1889.	Depositors.	1888.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	392,685 9 $2\frac{3}{4}$	4,776	367,061 18 $10\frac{1}{4}$	4,690
In Gozo - -	35,193 8 5	541	30,488 10 9	507
Total -	427,878 17 $7\frac{3}{4}$	5,317	397,550 9 $7\frac{1}{4}$	5,197
Interest accrued due during 1889 credited to capital -	5,744 0 6	—	—	—
Grand Total -	433,622 18 $1\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—

Savings Bank.—Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Establishment expenses :—		By Depositors' account :—	
To Salaries for 1889 - -	312 19 1	„ Recovered interest - -	22 7 8
„ Sundry office expenses -	159 1 $1\frac{1}{2}$	„ Books account - -	7 17 3
„ Rent account - -	108 0 0	„ Dividends from Consols -	9,076 2 5
„ Interest paid and due for 1889 - - - -	6,029 5 4	„ Interest from Monte -	1,624 10 0
	6,609 5 $6\frac{1}{2}$		
Balance Profit - - -	4,121 11 $9\frac{1}{2}$		
	10,730 17 4		10,730 17 4

MALTA

Balance Sheet of the Savings Bank on 31st December 1889.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Treasury banking account -	34,023	2	7½	By Depositors' account - -	433,622	18	1¾
„ Monte di Pietà - -	54,150	0	0	„ MaltaBranch(Gozo)account	297	0	5
„ Cash account - - -	297	0	5	„ Profit and loss - -	4,121	11	9¾
„ Investments account - -	349,274	6	11				
„ Gozo Branch(Malta) account current - - -	297	0	5				
	438,041	10	4½		438,041	10	4½

Balance Sheet of the Monte di Pietà on 31st December 1889.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Landed property account -	61,628	12	2	By Stock account - -	41,628	12	2
„ Cash account - - -	168	5	11¼	„ Loans account - -	7,569	2	9
„ Pawning account - -	40,559	5	1¾	„ Savings bank account -	54,150	0	0
„ Treasury banking account -	3,740	8	9½	„ Surplus on sales of pawns -	1,932	6	10¾
„ Gozo Branch(Malta)account current - - -	49	3	0¾	„ MaltaBranch(Gozo)account	49	3	0¾
				„ Profit and loss account -	816	10	2¾
	106,145	15	1¼		106,145	15	1¼

Education.

The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1889.	1888.
The University, attended by - -	94	105
The Lyceum, attended by - -	445	404
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	156	157
Seventy-six Primary Schools, attended by - - - - - -	9,058	9,157
Ten Infant Schools, attended by -	939	880
Total - - -	10,692	10,703

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted to 18,123*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance in the University and Lyceum to 339*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

Imports and Exports.

	£		£	
The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	845,177	in 1889, against	875,853	in 1888
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same vessels - -	23,441,935	against	25,887,270	„
	24,287,112		26,763,123	

viz. :—

From the U. Kingdom -	144,275	against	135,085	in 1888
From the British Colonies	1,190,287	„	773,923	„
From H.M.'s ships in port	511	„	735	„
From foreign countries -	22,952,039	„	25,853,380	„
	24,287,112		26,763,123	„

showing a decrease of 2,476,011*l.*

	£		£	
The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port - -	56,316	in 1889, against	70,874	in 1888
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels -	23,570,766	against	25,884,474	„
	23,627,082		25,955,348	

viz. :—

To the United Kingdom	4,750,352	against	5,054,172	in 1888.
„ British Colonies -	9,054,414	„	9,679,717	„
„ H.M.'s ships -	2,847	„	5,078	„
„ foreign countries -	9,819,469	„	11,216,381	„
	23,627,082		25,955,348	

showing a decrease of 2,328,266*l.*

MALTA.

Shipping.

The shipping movements in the port during the last three years are as follows:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1886 - - -	3,605	4,349,015	1,257	97,405
1887 - -	2,858	3,310,039	1,046	93,987
1888 - - -	4,336	5,143,248	1,557	131,738
	10,799	12,802,302	3,860	323,130
Average -	3,599	4,267,434	1,287	107,710
1889 - -	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
Increase -	699	832,300	35	1,010

The following table compares the actual arrivals in 1889 with those in 1888:—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1888 - - - -	4,336	5,143,248	1,557	131,738
1889 - - - -	4,298	5,099,734	1,322	108,720
Decrease - -	38	43,514	235	23,018

Criminal Statistics.

The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1889:—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	99	122	8	114
„ affecting public credit - -	7	8	1	2
„ „ the good order of families	38	48	9	39
„ against the person - - -	823	1,092	121	971
„ „ property - - -	269	358	59	299
Contempt of Court - - - -	1	1	—	1
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	1,913	3,187	236	2,951
Against the person - - - -	121	166	29	137
„ property - - - -	79	147	19	128

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	856	1,152	193	959
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	3,113	4,738	127	4,611
Totals - -	7,319	11,019	802	10,212

viz. :—

Maltese - - -	10,897	in 1889, against	11,162	in 1888.
English - - -	91	„ „	132	„
Foreigners - -	31	„ „	7	„
	11,019	„ „	11,301	„

The number of persons committed to prison in 1889 was as follows :—

Men - - - - -	3,274
Women - - -	546
Boys - -	1,295
Girls - - - - -	28
	5,143

GENERAL REMARKS.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Customs receipts for 1889 amounted to 161,871*l.* 5*s.*, which when compared with 1888 show an increase of 5,271*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

The other receipts amounted to 89,304*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* showing an increase of 5,758*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.* over those of 1888.

And the total revenue for the year, which was estimated at 228,332*l.*, was exceeded by 22,843*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

The excess has taken place principally under three heads of receipts, *i.e.*, Customs, Licenses for the Sale of Wines and Spirits, and interest.

The increase on the first head is due to a greater importation of wine and spirits during the year, and to the higher duty levied on these articles consequent to the promulgation of Ordinance No. XI., entitled "To amend the law respecting the duty of importation on wines and spirits."

The increase on the second head is caused by the new assessment on licenses for the retail of wines and spirits; and that under the third head is chiefly due to higher amounts of dividends, profit

MALTA.

of the Monte di Pietà, interest on money deposited in the London and Westminster Bank, and the rate of interest paid by his Excellency the Governor for furniture.

The other heads of revenue call for no special remarks.

The expenditure for 1889 amounted to 93,909*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* under salaries and allowances, and 135,793*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* under other expenditure, against 90,477*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* and 121,836*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* in 1888; showing an increase under both heads. The increase in salaries is chiefly due to salaries of certain employés in the Waterworks Department formerly defrayed out of services exclusive of Establishments, to the increased number of employés in the Post Office, and to annual increments of salaries.

The increase in other expenditure is principally attributable to the number of works carried out in 1888 having been less than that of the previous year, and to other minor causes.

Public Debt.

Properly speaking, Malta has no public debt. Interest is paid at 2½ per cent. on a sum of 79,168*l.* 5*s.* 2¾*d.*, of which 800*l.* were bequeathed to the Public Library representing certain sums invested in the "Antica Massa Frumentaria" which had been taken by the French in 1798, but the holders of the scrip have no right to claim payment of capital. On the 8th March 1805, by a Proclamation under that date, it was provided for the payment of the interest out of a then imposed duty on imported wine.

By Ordinance No. XIII. of 1858 shares were made transferable by certificates, the minimum for 10*l.* Since the Ordinance was put into operation certificates were issued to the amount of 17,485*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

The capital amount as originally raised in 1819 was 102,533*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, the amount repaid up to date is 23,365*l.* 9*s.* 0¼*d.*, and the interest paid in 1889 was 1,866*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

Ordinances.

The Ordinances of principal importance passed by the Council of Government during session 1888–9 were the following, viz.:—

Ordinance No. I. abolishes Ordinance No. II. of 1852, and gives power to the head of the Government to make regulations for the training of the militia in the use of the arms, &c., and for making applicable certain Imperial Acts to this corps.

Ordinance No. IV. gives power to the head of the Government to prohibit in certain cases the exportation or carriage coastwise of arms, ammunitions, and gunpowder, Military and Naval stores, &c.

Ordinance No. IX.—The object of this Ordinance was to prevent the importation of dangerous petroleum.

The provisions of the Ordinance are assimilated as much as practicable to the Act now in force in India.

Ordinance No. X. amends Ordinance No. VI. of 1840 in the sense of making it obligatory to masters in command of vessels breaking bulk in these harbours to produce on arrival a manifest attested by the British Consular authority at the place whence the vessel shall have sailed, of the cargo and the ship's supplies, with an indication of the quantity thereof.

Ordinance No. XI.—This Ordinance before being passed into law was discussed by the Council of Government upon the lines of the recommendations made by a Special Commission appointed to report upon the draft. The main features of the Ordinance were to the effect that wines under 26° of spirit shall pay 2*s.* 6*d.* per barrel, and that wines between 26° and 28° shall pay the same duty, provided it be proved to the satisfaction of the collector of Customs that such wine has not been artificially re-enforced; in this manner the duty of common wine, which is consumed by the poorer classes of the population, remain the same as it was.

Formerly duty on certain wines was paid on the faith of declarations made by the importers, which course, for obvious reasons, was very objectionable, and the revenue was frequently defrauded through false declarations supported by fictitious invoices.

Ordinance No. XII.—In this Ordinance there is nothing new in substance which is not contained in the statute of the University. Simply that which is contained in that statute as regards the organisation and the government of the educational establishment is raised to dispositions of the law.

Ordinance No. XIII. is intended to authorise the head of the Government to grant patents to individuals with a view of encouraging the inventions and improvements in mechanical contrivances, &c.

Ordinance No. XIV.—This Ordinance was rendered necessary in consequence of a portion of the Maltese press having abounded in personal and scurrilous articles, and it was found to be absolutely necessary to put a stop to a system which was becoming discreditable to the whole island.

Political Franchise.

Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom amending Letters Patent dated 12th December 1887 were made public on the 1st March 1889.

The Letters Patent embodying the recommendations made by a Royal Commission for the determination of the boundaries of single constituencies came into operation, and in September 27, 1889, a general election took place in accordance with the provisions contained in those Letters Patent.

Some partial elections also took place during the year to fill up seats rendered vacant by one of the members having been returned for more than one district, and for another member having resigned his seat in Council after being duly elected.

MALTA.

Councils.

In the Executive Council there were some changes during the year.

Mr. Adolfo Sciortino was appointed an Official Member of that Council in lieu of Mr. G. Cousin. M.D.

Baron A. Chapelle, LL.D., Mr. A. Lanzon, and Mr. Evaristo Caotaldi were appointed unofficial members of the same Council.

In the Council of Government no change has taken place.

Civil Establishments.

During the absence from the island of Governor Sir H. Torrens, K.C.M.G., the administration of the Government was carried on by Major-General A. H. King, R.A., as Deputy Governor up to the 9th November, and after that date by Major-General H. Wilkie as officer administering the Government.

Securities of Public Officers.

The only security of importance entered into during the year was that of Dr. G. Cousin, appointed Receiver-General, who deposited in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank bonds for the nominal value of 3,000*l.*

Foreign Consuls.

The changes in the Consular body in this island were the following:—Mr. Edward V. Ferro has been appointed Consul for Germany in succession to Mr. Henry Ferro, deceased; Cavaliere Augusto Bazzoni has been appointed Consul General for Italy in lieu of Count Lambertenghi, who held that post as Consul; Mr. Gustaf Gollcher and Mr. James Gollcher have been appointed, respectively, Consuls for the Netherlands, and for Norway and Sweden, in the place of their father Mr. O. F. Gollcher, deceased.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony of Malta on the 31st December 1888 was 162,423.

The natural increase during 1889, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 1,427, so that the population on the 31st December 1889 may be estimated at 163,850.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors at the close of the year was 5,317, and the total sum on deposit 433,623*l.*

This is a larger amount than in any previous year.

The bank is now being very much used; its safety and convenience to depositors being more known. It is being utilised

for the purpose for which it was intended, that is, a place of temporary deposit for the savings of the working classes, and is also serving the purpose of many wealthy people by their being enabled to keep their money in that bank on a *quasi* account current.

Education.

The number of Government schools and the number of scholars attending same are stated at page 10 of this report.

These schools are classified thus:—

University, Lyceum, secondary schools, and primary schools.

The University is empowered to confer five degrees, viz.:—B.A. Bachelor of Arts; M.A., Master of Arts; M.D., Doctor of Medicine; LL.D., Doctor of Laws; D.D., Doctor of Divinity: and consists of four faculties,—Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Law, and Theology.

The Lyceum is an institution intended to impart intermediate instruction. It is divided into three departments; the preparatory school, the modern department, and the classical department. It prepares young men to matriculate in the University to compete for situations in the army or the civil service, or t embrace the career of commerce, and architecture and land surveying.

The primary schools are intended to educate and instruct the children of the working classes, and to prepare those among them who are willing to continue their studies for admission to the Lyceum and the other intermediate or secondary schools.

Instruction is given in the Maltese, English and Italian languages, arithmetic, writing, history, geography, needlework, and the catechism.

Imports and Exports.

In 1889, as compared with 1888, there was a falling off in the imports to the value of 2,476,011*l.* and of 2,328,266*l.* in the exports.

Shipping.

The arrivals during the year compared with those of 1888 show a decrease of 38 steamers and 235 sailing vessels.

The above decrease may be attributed to the improvements introduced in most of the merchant steamers enabling the bunkers to hold a large quantity of coals and thus avoid calling at intermediate ports, and to the keen competition in the shipping industry, which fact causes the lowering of freightage to such a rate as to make it not worth while for shipowners to charter their steamers without any profit.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of cases brought before the courts by the police in 1889 was 7,319, against 7,550 in 1888.

MALTA.

The number of persons accused was 11,019, against 11,301 in 1888.

The number of persons acquitted was 802, against 956 in 1888; and the number of persons condemned was 10,212, against 10,345 in 1888.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir H. A. Smyth, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 88.

MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES.

REPORTS ON THE BLUE BOOKS FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 36.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.–18.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
37	Ceylon	1887
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888

No. 88.

MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES.

(In Continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 36.)

Sir J. POPE HENNESSY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Rostellan Castle, County Cork,
March 14, 1890.

MY LORD,

1. In addition to the statistical abstract prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to make the following Report on the Blue Book of Mauritius for 1888, with some remarks on the past and present state of the Colony.

The Elective System.

2. The new Constitution, which was granted to Mauritius by Her Majesty's Letters Patent in September 1885, has worked well.

3. Instead of the old nominee Council of 16 members, the Council of Government now consists of 27 members, eight being ex-officio, nine others being also appointed by the Crown, and ten elected on a moderate franchise.

4. Though all the elected members are Mauritians of the French race they enjoy the confidence of the general community, and it is understood that the Indian and Chinese electors supported them.

5. The elected members take the lead in financial discussions, and, indeed, in every question requiring local experience. In purely Imperial matters in which Her Majesty's Government required either votes of money or some special legislative enactments I have found them ready to co-operate cordially with the Executive.

6. The sound constitutional working of the elective system was shown at the end of last year, when one of the members for Port Louis resigned, on the ground that he feared he did not really represent the views of the constituency, and at the election that followed another candidate was returned.

The new Executive Council

7. Your Lordship has given additional strength to the Executive Council, and has recognised the value of the elective system

MAURITIUS. by the Royal Warrant of last year appointing two elected members of the Council of Government to seats in the Executive Council. This change has also worked remarkably well.

Extension of Local Government.

8. Before leaving Mauritius in December 1889 I had the satisfaction of assenting on behalf of Her Majesty to an Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners for the town of Curepipe.

9. Curepipe is a collection of villas more than an ordinary town. It has gradually grown into importance owing to its healthy situation, on a fine plane, about 2,000 feet above the sea level.

10. The new law authorises the Governor to appoint the first batch of Commissioners, but it also enables the ratepayers to substitute an Elective Commission for a nominated one when they think it necessary to make the change.

Barracks at Curepipe.

11. The greater number of the Imperial troops in the Colony are now quartered in the new barracks at Curepipe.

12. When the barracks were completed it was discovered that they had been built too close to the cemetery of the town. This gave rise to a difficulty which was settled in 1889, when Mr. Stanhope expressed his high appreciation of the action of the inhabitants in consenting to the closing of the cemetery.

Quarantine of the Troops.

13. A long disputed question as to the mode of quarantining new detachments was also terminated last year, when the Council of Government sanctioned an amendment in the quarantine laws suggested by Colonel Erskine Hall, the officer in command of the troops.

The Defences.

14. The protection of the harbour of Port Louis as a coaling station for Her Majesty's ships has engaged the earnest attention of the Imperial and Indian Governments. In the last century, under the French Government, Mauritius was called the key of India. If in time of war the Suez Canal should be closed, the safety of the long sea route to India will turn not only on the strength of the British navy, but on the coaling stations at the Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius.

15. When I proposed to the new Council in 1886 a vote of 55,000*l.* to build forts for the protection of the Imperial coaling station, the elected members unanimously supported the motion. In this respect Mauritius contrasts not unfavourably with some

other Colonies. In the progress and completion of the defence works Mauritius is also not behind her neighbours. An intelligent officer, who carefully inspected last year what had been done to safeguard the long sea route from England to India, assured me that Imperial interests seemed more advanced and better secured in Port Louis than elsewhere. The credit of this is undoubtedly due to the Council that so promptly voted the money, and to Colonel Erskine Hall and the officers under his command who built the new forts. The modern guns sent out from the War Department are now mounted. The torpedo branch of the defence works is also complete.

16. Some years ago Sir Michael Hicks Beach, at the suggestion of the Government of Hong Kong, induced the Admiralty to present the ironclad "Wivern" to that Colony as a sort of floating fort for harbour defence. A similar gift to the Colony of Mauritius would no doubt be a useful addition to the War Office scheme of defence.

Telegraphic Communications.

17. I regret to report that nothing practical has been accomplished as regards another element of Imperial defence, that of communication by telegraph between England and Mauritius. I found no difficulty in inducing the Council of Government to vote a subsidy of 10,000*l.* per annum for this object on condition that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would obtain a similar vote from the House of Commons, as the total estimated yearly cost was 20,000*l.* I understand the Eastern Telegraph Company are prepared to lay down the line whenever the remaining moiety is provided by the Imperial Government.

British Mail Service.

18. In the last session a vote that had been rejected in the previous session was passed in the Council of Government for a subsidy for a mail service under the British flag.

19. For many years the Council had voted a subsidy of 80,000 rupees for the Messageries Maritimes Company. As nearly all the passengers from Mauritius to Europe are Mauritians of the French race, it was not unnatural that they should prefer steamers in which French customs, and especially the French language, prevail. Your Lordship, however, pointed out the desirability of securing, on Imperial grounds, a mail service under the British flag, and as Mr. Goschen undertook to move the Imperial Parliament for one half the sum required, the Council voted a total sum of 136,250 rupees, for the conveyance of mails, out of which 56,250 rupees will be provided for the British India Steam Navigation Company, the rest going to the Messageries Maritimes Company.

MAURITIUS.

The New Waterworks.

20. About five years ago the Council voted a sum of 400,000 rupees to bring pure water from the upland springs to the chief centres of population. The reservoirs and canals are now finished, and are capable of supplying three and a half millions of gallons per day.

The Public Health.

21. Owing mainly to the careful supervision of the General Board of Health and of the Municipality of Port Louis the sanitary state of the Colony is improving.

Railway, Post Office, and Shipping Returns.

22. The Blue Book I now send shows an increase in the returns of railway traffic, of Post Office revenue, and the tonnage of shipping as compared with the returns in the Blue Book of the preceding year, and, as far as I could ascertain in December last, this increase has steadily continued.

The Sugar Trade.

23. The total value of Mauritius products exported in 1888 reached the sum of 30,335,545 rupees, being an increase of six millions of rupees on the preceding year. The value of the sugar exported was 28,754,798 rupees. Of this sum about fifteen millions of rupees represents sales in India, seven millions in Australia, two millions in the Cape Colonies, two millions in the United Kingdom, and a million in the United States.

24. As far as my limited personal experience enables me to judge, I consider Mauritius the most flourishing sugar-producing Colony of the British Empire.

25. This is, perhaps, owing partly to the Indian and Australian markets which the Mauritian planters enjoy, and which are too remote from the West Indian Islands. It is also probably due to the greater facility the producers in Mauritius have in obtaining coolie labour from India. But the chief difference between Mauritius and the West Indian Islands is that nearly all the owners of the sugar estates and all the managers of the estates in the former are natives of the Island. Absenteeism prevails much more in the West Indies than in Mauritius.

26. The great fall of recent years in the price of sugar has been met by the Mauritius planter to some extent by prudently reducing his establishment expenses and also by endeavouring to increase the quantity of sugar obtained from the cane. The latter object is now being successfully carried out by the diffusion system which your Lordship has so heartily encouraged.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.

(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

Government House, Seychelles,
June 18, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the accompanying report on the Seychelles Blue Book for 1888.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. RISELEY GRIFFITH,
Administrator.

His Excellency
Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Mauritius.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The net revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 200,095.56 against Rs. 171,161.89 in the preceding year, and the expenditure under estimates and special votes (without including the Mauritius account) was Rs. 169,082.33 against Rs. 128,117.08 in the year 1887.

The heads of revenue under which the principal increase as compared with 1887 is to be found are the following:—

	1887.	1888.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Import duties - - -	92,971 10	106,325 75
Licenses - - - -	21,311 00	24,072 50
Local rate - - - -	23,373 06	25,435 12
Fines, fees, and forfeitures - -	5,062 21	7,067 73
Registration of deeds - -	5,689 34	7,906 56
Mortgage Office fees - -	1,033 74	1,226 54
Stamps - - - -	2,896 50	3,493 00
Rum duty - - - -	5,433 86	7,002 24

The net expenditure in the Dependency shows a balance of Rs. 31,012.63 in favour of revenue.

The revenue of 1888 was the largest ever collected in Seychelles. It exceeded the estimated amount (Rs. 159,550) by Rs. 41,545.56, and shows an increase of Rs. 29,933.67 over that of 1887.

SEYCHELLES.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 529,695.18 against Rs. 621,789.08 in the preceding year showing a decrease of Rs. 92,093.90. This is mainly attributable to the smaller export of vanilla and cloves.

Imports.

The imports show a total of Rs. 568,289.82 for the year 1888 against Rs. 481,201.11 in 1887. The increase, Rs. 87,088.71, is due to a larger importation of cotton goods, haberdashery, hardware, wine and spirits, coal, and the importation of plant and materials for the French Messageries Maritimes Company, on which latter, however, no duty was exacted.

SHIPPING.

Eighty-one vessels manned by 8,221 men, including mail steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 145,367 tons, entered Port Victoria, namely :—

		Tons.
17	Men-of-war - - - -	27,093
30	Mail steamers - - -	108,499
34	Merchant vessels - - -	9,775
	Total - - -	145,367

Of the men-of-war—
- 11 were English.
- 4 were French.
- 1 was German.
- 1 was Italian.

Of the merchant vessels—
- 27 were British.
- 33 were French (including mail steamers).
- 4 were American.

Total - 64

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

In the Ward of Mahé.

The birth rate per 1,000 was 32·40 against 23·72 in 1887.
The per-centage of still-births was 2·21 against 2·80 in 1887.
The death rate per 1,000 was 17·10 against 9·94 in 1887.
There were 158 marriages against 231 in 1887.

In the Ward of Praslin.

There were 15 marriages against 26 in 1887, and no marriages in *articulo mortis* against one in 1887.

EDUCATION.

In 1888 there were 24 schools aided by the Government grants, attended by 1,729 children, against 22 schools in 1887 attended by 1,801 children.

Seventeen schools with 1,390 pupils are under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and seven schools with 339 pupils are managed by the civil chaplain and the Church Missionary Society.

The sum voted in 1888 for grants in aid was Rs. 8,000, the same amount as in 1887.

It was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic Mission Schools -	6,120	03
Church of England Schools - -	1,699	19
Church Missionary Society School at Capuchin - - - -	180	78
Total - -	8,000	00

JUDICIAL.

Criminal Side.

The total number of criminal informations filed during 1888 was 859 against 665 in 1887. Out of the 859 informations filed, 796 were adjudicated upon, against 565 in 1887; the number of cases in which no further action taken or not adjudicated upon being 63 against 81 in 1887.

There were 778 persons convicted against 508 in 1887, and 187 persons acquitted against 167 in 1887.

The most numerous charges were those of disturbance and drunkenness, both of which show a very considerable increase upon the preceding year.

There were 221 persons convicted of disturbance in 1888 against 119 in 1887, and 130 for drunkenness against 63 in 1887.

For possession of stolen property there were 51 convictions in 1888 against 30 in 1887, and for larceny 36 convictions in 1888 against 26 in 1887.

For breach of license laws there were 63 convictions in 1888 against 34 in 1887.

For breach of fishing laws 54 convictions in 1888 against 12 in 1887.

For breach of bacca regulation 11 convictions in 1888 against 24 in 1887.

Civil Side.

The number of civil cases entered in 1888 was 200 against 155 in 1887.

Stipendiary.

There were 144 cases entered before the Stipendiary Court in 1888 against 109 in 1887, and the number of persons charged was 167 against 109 in 1887. The most numerous charges were for failing to produce tickets, of which there were 85 convictions against 49 in 1887, and leaving service without notice.

The engagements and discharges before the stipendiary magistrates were as follows :—

	1887.	1888.
Engagements - - - -	44	66
Discharges - - - - -	63	56

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions entered before the District and Stipendiary Courts during the year 1888 stands as follows :—

	1888.	1887.
Criminal - - - - -	859	665
Civil - - - - - -	200	155
Stipendiary - - - - -	144	109
Total - - -	1,203	929
Increase - - -	274 cases.	

GAOL.

472 persons were committed to gaol in 1888 against 379 in 1887. There were 15 persons sentenced to one year or more, against 5 in 1887, and 457 persons sentenced to less than one year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

As stated in previous reports, the number of adherents of the two Churches supported by the Government in Seychelles is not shown separately from those of the other Dependencies in the returns of the census taken in 1887.

The following number of ministers were employed in 1888 :—

Church of England.

Civil chaplain - - - - -	1
Minister for South Mahé - - -	1
Minister for Praslin - - - -	1
Evangelists and catechists - - -	8
Total -	11

same as in 1887.

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop - - - - -	1
Priests in holy orders - - -	14
Lay Brothers, Capuchins - - -	5
Lay Brothers, Maristes - - -	7
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny - -	30
Total -	57

against 51 in 1887.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Church of England.

Churches - - - - -	2
Chapels also used as schools - - -	10
Total -	12

same as in 1887.

Roman Catholic Church.

Churches (permanent) - - -	10
„ (temporary) - - -	5
Chapels - - - - -	5
Total -	20

same as in 1887.

SEYCHELLES.

HOSPITAL.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1888 was 228 against 179 in 1887, as follows:—

	1887.	1888.
Paupers - - - - -	66	55
Prisoners - - - - -	49	86
Paying patients - - - -	64	87
Total - - - -	179	228

Of these 228 persons—

179 were discharged as cured.
29 „ „ relieved.
3 „ „ unrelieved.
5 died.
12 remained in hospital at the end of the year.

Of the unrelieved one was sent to Curieuse Pauper Asylum, two left hospital at their own request.

There were in 1888 294 persons vaccinated at the public hospital, 43 at the Mahé outlying stations, and 210 in the Praslin ward; total, 547.

The principal diseases were anæmia, dysentery, fever, rheumatism, syphilis, and ulcers.

DISPENSARY.

The number of persons who have applied for medicines at the public dispensary was 5,169 against 4,233 in 1887.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Various repairs have been made to the hospital and other buildings. A dead-house and bath-room have been built for the hospital.

Two large prison wards have been completed.

A public works office has been built.

A pavilion or shed, privies, a kitchen, and a signal mast have been erected on Long Island, and a quarantine hut on Noyenne Island.

Articles of furniture have been made for various departments, a platform has been filled in adjoining the pier, and a new landing warehouse partly built.

A new coal wharf has been built and leased to the Messageries Maritimes Company.

Extension of Roads.

The road leading to the north of Mahé has been made on a length of 1,070 metres, and the road leading to the south has been made on a distance of 2,890 feet.

The road between Barbaron and Anse La Mouche has been made on a length of 2,700 metres.

A bridge at Port Gland has been pulled down and replaced by a chaussée.

Another chaussée has been commenced, but not completed.

The path leading to Northern West Bay has been converted into a road on a length of 700 metres.

A bridle-path leading to Port Gland has been opened on mountains on a length of 2,300 metres.

A road leading to Port Gland viâ Forêt Noire has been commenced, as also a road at Praslin.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.

North road has been repaired and drained on a distance of 1,000 metres.

South road on a distance of 300 metres.

The road between Anse La Mouche and Anse Royale has been kept in repair and two bridges have been built.

Two stone bridges have been made on Cascade Road and the road repaired and cleaned.

A small portion of the road at Anse Boileau has been repaired and a bridge completed.

A footpath between Grand Anse and Port Gland has been cleaned and improved.

A footpath has been opened in the south districts of Mahé on a length of 4,000 metres.

Bridges have been repaired on the North-west road and in town.

The La Misère road has been repaired and drained on a distance of 1,150 metres.

Four wooden bridges on this road have been replaced by stone bridges.

A footpath leading to glacis has been cleaned on a distance of 300 metres.

LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners:—

A Regulation—"To make better provision for the repression "and detection of larcenies of vanilla and other produce," not confirmed.

A Regulation—"To regulate the receipt and payment of money "deposited in the office of the district clerk," No. 1 of 1888.

SEYCHELLES.

A Regulation—"To amend the law of Mortgage (Hypotheque) "in this Dependency," No. 2 of 1888.

A Regulation—"To provide for the transfer to the Collector "and Treasurer of the powers and duties of the Collector of "Customs and Collector of Internal Revenues under the Customs "and Distillery Laws," No. 4 of 1888.

A Regulation—"To regulate the conventions commonly called "Moitié System Contracts," No. 3 of 1888.

A Regulation—"To alter the definition of vagrants as laid "down by Ordinance No. 12 of 1878," not confirmed.

A Regulation—"To transfer the duties of Stamp Officer from "the district clerk to the Postmaster," No. 5 of 1888.

RODRIGUES.

REPORT ON THE RODRIGUES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1888.

I.—TAXATION.

Towards the end of the year the tax on dogs was reduced from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 1.50; but the reduction only took effect from 1st January 1889.

The Custom duty hitherto charged at Mauritius on tobacco exported thither from this Dependency was abolished; that article being now admitted free, if accompanied by a certificate from the Civil Commissioner, to the effect that it is the *bonâ fide* produce of this Island.

II.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.	c.
The revenue of 1888, exclusive of Customs, collected in Mauritius was - - - -	10,369	26
Showing an increase of -	1,414	68
as compared with the revenue of 1887, which was - -	8,954	58
The expenditure of 1888, exclusive of payments made in Mauritius, was - - - -	19,606	32
Showing an increase of - -	1,776	50
as compared with expenditure of 1887, which amounted to - -	17,829	82

The principal heads of revenue were land sales, land rent, pasturage, and sale of Government property.

The rate of revenue per head of population in 1888 was Rs. 5.38, and the rate of expenditure Rs. 10.19.

III.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Offences for which prosecution took place in 1888 numbered 49, being a decrease of 8 on the year 1887. There was a decrease of 22 in the number of persons brought before the courts in 1888

over the previous year. Of 50 persons brought before the police court on various charges, 43 were convicted, while 2 out of 3 charged before the Stipendiary Court were sentenced. The offenders comprised 1 American, 1 European, 43 Creoles (Mauritius, Bourbon, and Rodrigues), 4 Indians, and 4 Malagasies.

The most serious charges were 4 cases of larceny, 3 possession of stolen property, 1 swindling, and 3 of wounds and blows.

The number of civil cases amounted to 143, as against 163 in 1887.

IV.— PRISONS.

Thirty-one persons were committed during 1888 as compared with 12 in 1887.

	1887.	1888.
For non-payment of fine and costs - -	4	3
„ safe custody until trial - - -	3	10
„ various terms of imprisonment - -	5	18
„ debt under Ordinance 16 of 1879 - -	—	—
Total - -	12	

The chief officer of police is the keeper of the gaol, the constables acting as prison guards.

No offences were committed in the prison and no escapes took place in 1888.

V.—POST OFFICE.

The revenue derived frm this source during 1888 stands at Rs. 112.06, being a decrease of Rs. 45.99 on year 1887.

Money orders drawn on Mauritius amounted to Rs. 7778.38, being a decrease of Rs. 7394.65 on previous year. Orders were drawn on Rodrigues to the value of Rs. 907.73, an increase of Rs. 231.02 over year 1887.

In 1888 there was an increase of 434 letters, and a decrease of 69 newspapers received at the Post Office, and a decrease of 186 letters despatched, as compared with 1887.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The new quarters for the Chief Officer of Police, which were commenced in 1887, were completed in 1888, at a cost of Rs. 776.62.

Quarters for 5 Indian constables were also built at a cost of Rs. 195.74.

The roof of the schoolmaster's house at St. Gabriel was recovered with latanier leaves, and a well was dug at that school to a depth of 40 feet, and a new servants' house built for the Government medical officer.

Rs. 1569.55 was expended on works (including sanitary) and buildings versus Rs. 964.79 in 1887.

Repairs to boats and Government buildings, excluding painting, were executed as required at a cost of Rs. 119.00 against Rs. 269.62 in 1887.

VII.—Population and Vital Statistics.

The population of this Dependency on 31st December 1888 was 1,924, an increase of 94 souls.

Population on 31st December 1887	-	-	1,830
Total births, 1888	- 106		
„ arrivals „	- 37		
	— 143		
Less deaths, „	- 32		
„ departures, 1888	- 17		
	— 49		
Increase in 1888		-	94
Population on 31st December 1888		-	1,924

Estimation of numbers employed at various callings and those unemployed:—

Government servants	19
Commerce	8
Agriculturist	1,000
Artisans	14
Fisheries	250
Other callings	150
Unemployed, aged people, and young children	483
	1,924

There were 23 marriages in 1888 against three in 1887, and one still-birth in 1888 against three in 1887.

There was an increase of five in the mortality of 1888 over 1887, 21 being infants and young children under six years of age.

No marriage *in articulo mortis* was celebrated.

VIII.—Legislation.

During 1888 no special laws were enacted by the Legislative Council of Mauritius for this Island, but Ordinance 38 of 1888, to make provision with regard to wrecks and salvage, is applicable to this Dependency.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The Government schools at Port Mathurin and St. Gabriel continued their usual good work during 1888. No other schools exist in the Island.

At the Port Mathurin school the average number on roll was 54, and average attendance 47, against 70 and 54 in 1887.

At St. Gabriel the roll number was 60 and average attendance 40, versus 57 and 38 in 1887.

The cost of the Port Mathurin school was Rs. 1,995.96, and school fees received Rs. 97.52, while in 1887 it was Rs. 1,756.00, and fees received Rs. 168.00.

The St. Gabriel school cost Rs. 1,140.00., being the same amount as in 1887. No fees are charged at this school.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil at both schools was Rs. 26.65.

On December 20th the scholars of the Port Mathurin school were examined by the Civil Commissioner assisted by Mr. Vigir; 27 pupils were presented for examination, of whom 17 passed.

On the 22nd December the examination of the St. Gabriel school took place. The Civil Commissioner was assisted by Messrs. Vigir and Gellé. Of 29 pupils who were examined 16 passed. The subjects of examination were reading, dictation, composition (in French and English), geography, grammar, arithmetic, and writing.

X.—ESTABLISHMENTS.

The cost of establishments in 1888 was Rs. 14,702 34 against Rs. 13,273.56 in 1887, being an increase of Rs. 1428.78 caused by the priest and medical officer being paid for the whole year in 1888, which was not the case in 1887, also by a slight increase in police expenditure and the Port Mathurin school-master receiving increased pay.

XI.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The estimated value of exports for 1888 was Rs. 46,333.00 against Rs. 60,614.80 in 1887, and of imports Rs. 53,420.20 as compared with Rs. 60,622.02 in 1887.

To the indebtedness of most of the population to Government for rice and arrears of taxes is attributable the falling off in imports, while the failure of a great part of the bean crop and small results of the fisheries caused the reduction in exports.

	Rs.	c.	
Rate of export per head of population -	24	08	
Versus -	33	12	in 1887.
Rate of imports per head of population -	27	76	
Versus -	33	12	in 1887.

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds and weather were made by Mr. C. Mason, Chief Officer of Police, who transmitted them to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius.

The highest temperature (in door) was 89.8 on the 12.2.88 and the lowest 67.5 on the 29.7.88.

The average daily rainfall was $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, the greatest fall was $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the 18th December.

A hurricane visited the Island on the 18th December. The lowest fall of the barometer was 29.500 at 3 p.m. on that date.

XIII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Twenty-three in-patients and 2,655 out-patients were treated at the hospital and dispensary during 1888. The prevailing diseases were retention of urine, varicella, chicken-pox, varioloid, burns, gangrene, measles, disease of womb, and ague.

There was an increase of 11 in the in-patients at the hospital, and of 1,865 out-patients at the dispensary during 1888, as compared with 1887. The epidemic of measles and chicken-pox which raged from October to the end of the year accounts fully for this.

Expenditure on account of hospital was Rs. 2749.64; receipts Rs. 46.63.

There was an increase of Rs. 727.75 in the total cost of hospital in 1888 over 1887, and an increase of Rs. 31.40 in the receipts for the same period.

The cost to Government of each patient in hospital and dispensary was in 1888 Rs. 1.00 and in 1887 Rs. 2.54; this is exclusive of cost of medicines.

The dispensary at Mount Lubin was open during the year once a week.

XIV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

The Island is slowly recovering from the depression caused by the hurricane of 1886. Nearly all the arrears due for pasturage, land rent, and dog tax for years 1886 and 1887 have been paid off, as well as more than half of the amount due to Government for the rice supplied in 1886.

With the exception of the outbreak of the measles, the sanitary condition of the Dependency was satisfactory.

On the 30th June H.M.S. *Bacchante*, Capt. Henderson R.N., bearing the flag of H. E. Rear Admiral the Honourable E. Fremantle, C.B., C.M.G., arrived, accompanied by H.M.S. *Ranger*, Capt. Johnson, R.N., and H.M.S. *Algerine*, Capt. Forsyth, R.N. They left for Mauritius on 4th July 1888.

No other vessels beyond the regular ship subsidised by Government and one small schooner visited this Island during 1888.

RODRIGUES.

On August the 26th the Honourable H. N. D. Beyts, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary of Mauritius), visited Rodrigues as Special Commissioner representing the Governor of Mauritius. The result of this visit has been the adoption of many measures for advancing the prosperity, commercial and agricultural, of the Dependency. Land rent, pasturage dues, and dog tax have all been reduced (taking effect from 1st January 1889), while the acceptance of produce as payment for taxes, &c. from Government debtors who cannot pay cash has been approved by the Council of Government.

The balance, amounting to Rs. 4,768.40, due by the inhabitants for the rice provided by Government in 1886 has been waived. The relief thus afforded ought to be a considerable stimulus to the Island.

J. CLAN O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner
and Police Magistrate.

Island of Rodrigues,
March 28, 1889

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 83.

NATAL.

DESPATCH

FROM

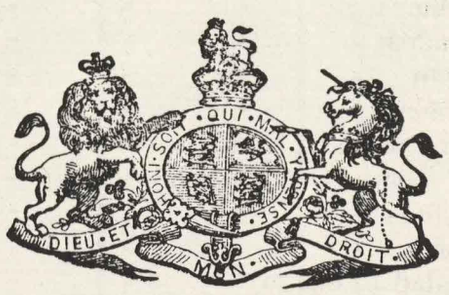
GOVERNOR SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL, K.C.M.G.

(WITH ENCLOSURES)

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

LIQUOR TRAFFIC AMONG THE NATIVES OF NATAL.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.-13.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
33	Hong Kong	1887
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,

No. 83.

NATAL.
(LIQUOR TRAFFIC AMONGST THE NATIVES.)

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
December 17, 1889,

MY LORD,

DURING the last Session of the Legislative Council, Mr. Binns, M.L.C., drew the attention of the Government to an extract from a speech, as given by the "Times," of 7th of May 1889, of your Lordship's relative to the liquor traffic amongst the Natives of Natal, and, in reply, I informed him that I proposed to communicate with your Lordship on the subject. Copy of question and reply enclosed.

I find by a reference to the volume of "Hansard's Debates," which contains the speech in question that the "Times," in its report, somewhat abbreviated and materially altered your Lordship's expression. As, however, a perusal of the whole speech leaves on my mind the impression that your Lordship appears to somewhat under estimate the efforts made by the Government of Natal in comparison with those of the Governments of the other countries mentioned by your Lordship to keep the Natives from the curse of strong drink, and, also, to somewhat over estimate the amount of drunkenness prevailing amongst them, I venture to state, for your Lordship's information, that, with the exception of the Fijians, I cannot call to mind any Native race that is so anxiously shielded by legislation from this curse, nor do I know of any race so closely intermingled with Europeans, and, at the same time, so little addicted to drunkenness, as are the Natal Zulus.

That it would be a good thing, in the Native interests, to abolish the roadside canteens, where, I daresay, much drink is sold to waggon drivers and other Natives travelling on the roads, I have no doubt; but they are allowed to be there for the convenience of the European part of the population, and no Bill for their abolition would stand a chance of passing into law, unless the Government could make out a much stronger case against them than it can at present.

As regards the deficient police supervision alluded to by your Lordship, I am of opinion that no system, however elaborate, would prevent the frequent infraction of the law by canteen keepers. The Natal Mounted Police, a very efficient and intelligent body of men, two hundred in number, who are scattered in small detachments throughout the Colony, are specially charged to endeavour to suppress this illicit trade, and they are, to a certain extent,

NATAL.

successful in doing this. I am preparing a scheme for attaching a certain number of Native detectives to this force, for the express purpose of obtaining convictions against those who sell liquor to Natives.

Sir Arthur Havelock, in his despatch of 31st March 1888,* written in reply to your Lordship's circular despatch of 26th January 1888, gave all the information relating to legislation on this subject, and mentioned the point under discussion relating to the restrictions which are applied to the sale of drink to Natives being made to apply to Indians and Hottentots.

Since I assumed the administration of the Government, I have given the general question my serious attention, and I appointed on the 12th August last, a Committee of the Executive Council consisting of the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Secretary for Native Affairs, to report on the questions raised in your Lordship's despatch, of the 9th May 1889.† I enclose a copy of its report, with which I and the whole Executive Council, fully concur. In accordance, with the recommendation contained in that report, a bill will be introduced at the next session of the Legislative Council to increase the penalties for the sale of drink to Natives. The Executive Council does not consider that it would be a wise step to place East Indians in the same position, as regards the procuring of liquor, as are the Natives. A large proportion of our East Indian population come from Madras, and have been more or less accustomed to the consumption of arrack all their lives: their contract to come here as immigrant labourers places them under certain restrictions, but not under any restriction as to procuring liquor. It would be a manifest hardship to superimpose this condition on the immigrants already here, and, as regards the future, it would, I think, almost put a stop to the supply of Coolies from Madras, if this special condition were inserted in their agreements.

Then there is a considerable population composed of Banians and of other East Indian races, who have come to Natal at their own cost. It would be difficult to distinguish these in legislating on the general question.

On the whole, I concur in the opinion of the Executive Council that it would be unjust and impolitic to prevent Indians from obtaining liquor.

As regards the question of whether drunkenness amongst the Natives is, or is not, on the increase, I caused a circular, copy enclosed, to be addressed to each magistrate. It will be seen from the précis of replies enclosed, that 14 magistrates believe that there has been no, or no material, increase of drunkenness, while seven hold a contrary opinion.

A further circular, copy enclosed, was designed to ascertain whether any failure of conviction had occurred, as has been asserted, through the Magistrates' belief that some consideration

* No. 21 in [C.-5563], November 1888.
† Not printed.

must be proved to have passed before conviction of the offence of supplying Natives with liquor.

The *précis* of replies annexed will show that, in the great majority of cases, (18 to 3) the Magistrates have not regarded proof of consideration having been given as necessary for conviction.

A circular was also sent to the three newly appointed Supervisors of Native Locations, which, with copies of their replies, I append.

On the whole, I am of opinion that the consumption of spirits is not much, if at all, on the increase, in country districts, but that in Durban, and its vicinity, the Umlazi Division, and, (notwithstanding the opinion of the Resident Magistrate, City Division,) in Pietermaritzburg, and its neighbourhood, the Umgeni Division, it is increasing, as the large floating population, composed to a considerable extent of Tongas, Pondos, and other non-Natal tribes, also of Natal Natives of doubtful character, increases. It is, however, in these very localities that the police force is the largest and the most efficiently organized, and this fact leads to the belief that the increase of the liquor traffic among Natives is not mainly due to the lack of police supervision.

That large quantities of Kaffir beer (tjowala) are consumed in the Native locations, I have no doubt whatever, but I should as little desire to put a stop to the consumption of cider in Devonshire as to prohibit the drinking of tjowala in Natal. The latter is as harmless, and probably more wholesome, as a beverage than the former.

The tshimyane, which is made from fermented treacle, is a much more potent, and, in its effects, a much more objectionable drink than tjowala, but, as treacle is difficult to procure, the consumption of this drink is chiefly confined to the neighbourhood of sugar mills. The making of tshimyane is punishable, under the authority of the Supreme Chief, by a fine of 2*l.* for each offence.

It may serve to illustrate my belief that there is no considerable amount of spirit drinking amongst the Natal Natives if I state that rum is the only spirit that could, as a rule, be sold to Natives at the low price which they can afford to pay, and that, of rum, only some 84,800 gallons paid excise duty during 1888 ; that there are 8,733 adult male Indian Immigrants from Madras in the Colony, and that each of these drinks, at a fair computation, eight gallons of rum a year. This would leave for consumption amongst all the remainder of the population, including about 400,000 Natal Natives, only some 15,000 gallons of this spirit.

No one who studies the various social problems in South Africa can fail to be struck with the absence of drunkenness amongst our Natives compared with the prevalence of it amongst the Natives of the surrounding States, and this immunity is, I venture to think, chiefly due to the anxious care with which the Government and Legislature of Natal have safe-guarded Native interests in this respect.

NATAL.

It is, I believe, because there is no apparent recognition of this fact in your Lordship's speech, that Mr. Binns asked the question on which this despatch is founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.

The Right Hon.
The Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c &c. &c.

Enclosure 1.

QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Binns asked the Acting Colonial Secretary :—

. Has the attention of the Government been directed to the following statement made, according to the "Times" newspaper, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the 6th ultimo, in the House of Lords, namely :—

"With regard to Natal, although the law appeared to be ufficiently stringent, he admitted that, owing to lack of police upervision, there had not been sufficient enforcement of that law. The finances of that Colony had not, hitherto been in such a condition that any great additional expenditure could be lightly incurred, but proposals had just been received for appointing Supervisors over the Natives, who would, among other duties, advise the Chiefs against the excesses which prevailed at their ceremonies. He had been able to sanction the appointment of those Supervisors, and would, when giving his sanction, strongly urge upon the Colonial Government to see that the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to Natives was enforced. The view taken by the Cape Government with regard to high tariffs was that, so far as the Natives were concerned, the traffic could only be checked by internal duties, and that a high tariff would stimulate smuggling and illicit distillation; while the view taken by Natal was that it would be of little use for them to pass any measures until the Cape and the Portuguese Governments had acted in the matter."

2. Will the Government take the necessary steps to supply such information to the Secretary of State as will enable the noble Lord to form a correct opinion regarding the liquor laws of this Colony?

Enclosure 2.

REPLY TO THE QUESTION ASKED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY MR. BINNS.

The Acting Colonial Secretary replied :—

The attention of the Government has been called to the statement in question, and his Excellency the Administrator proposes to address the Secretary of State on the subject.

Enclosure 3.

COMMITTEE of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Report.

The Committee has carefully considered the question raised by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State in his Despatch of the 9th May 1889, and it has also perused the whole of the previous papers on the same subject.

There appears to be but little doubt that the sale of intoxicating liquors to Natives has increased during recent years, but the Committee believes that the increase is due to the evasion and defiance of the law by European canteen keepers rather than to the illicit traffic which is, no doubt, carried on to a certain extent, by the Indian immigrant population.

3. Having regard to this fact, and having regard also to the opinions expressed by the Government of India, as well as by the Governments of Bengal and Madras and by the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, the Committee considers that it would be inexpedient to extend to Indian immigrants the provisions of the Law No. 22, 1878, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to Natives.

4. The Committee is of opinion that, even though the proposed measure might not be regarded as a breach of contract if applied to the Indian immigrants now in Natal, it would undoubtedly, very prejudicially affect the further supply of immigrants, especially from the Madras Presidency.

5. The Committee believes, however, that the illicit traffic in intoxicating liquors might be greatly checked by a more strict and efficient police supervision than now exists, and it suggests that, to this end, Native detectives might be employed with advantage, and that, in all cases half the amount of the fine should be awarded to the informer.

6. The Committee also recommends that the penalties for contraventions of the Law No. 22, 1878, be fixed and not optional, and that they be as follows :—

NATAL.

For the first offence:—A fine of 10*l.*, or three months' imprisonment with hard labour, and, in the case of a licensed dealer, suspension of license for three months.

For the second offence:—A fine of 25*l.*, or six months' imprisonment with hard labour, and, in the case of a licensed dealer, cancellation of license.

7. It is very desirable also that the Licensing Boards should exercise greater precaution in granting canteen licenses, and that such licenses should not be granted for canteens in localities where their existence must depend wholly, or in great measure, on illicit trade with the Natives.

8. The Committee also recommends that the attention of the magistrates be specially directed to this subject, and that they be instructed to use every means in their power to discover and punish the sellers of intoxicating liquors to Natives.

9. In conclusion the Committee desires to point out, that in the Cape Colony and in the Transvaal, there are practically no restrictions to the sale of intoxicating liquors to Natives. Owing to the absence of such restrictions, the large numbers of Natal Natives who are now employed at Kimberley and at the Transvaal gold fields, and who are in receipt of high wages, no doubt in many cases contract habits of intemperance which they bring back with them to Natal, and thereby contaminate their relatives and friends. The Committee is of opinion that to this cause the increased consumption of intoxicating liquors by Natives in Natal may, to no small extent, be attributed.

(Signed) A. H. HIME,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
JNO. T. POLKINGHORNE,
Treasurer,
H C. SHEPSTONE,
Secretary for Native Affairs.

14th September 1889.

Enclosure No. 4.

2nd August 1889.

SECRETARY for NATIVE AFFAIRS, NATAL, to RESIDENT MAGISTRATES and ADMINISTRATORS of NATIVE LAW.

With reference to Law 22 of 1878, which prohibits the sale and disposal of spirits and other intoxicating liquor to persons of the Native race, his Excellency would be glad of an expression of your opinion on the following points:—

Whether there has been to your knowledge or belief any increase of drinking among the natives since my circular of the 16th June 1885, and further, whether you consider that the provisions of the

law are clear enough and the penalties sufficiently heavy to prevent the abuse of the law.

The Attorney-General has ruled that the word "supplying" used in the law means the supplying by gift or otherwise.

By Command,

(Signed) H. C. SUEPSTONE,
Secretary, Native Affairs.

Enclosure 5.

CIRCULAR, SECRETARY for NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Resident Magistrate, City Division, Pietermaritzburg.—Is of opinion with the Superintendent of Police, that drinking has neither materially increased nor decreased.—Provisions of law perfectly clear. Heavier penalties no good. Believes that the law tends largely to debase Native character. Supplying by gift comparatively harmless. Removal of restrictions would lessen drunkenness in city.

Resident Magistrate, Umgeni Division, Pietermaritzburg.—Thinks it has increased. Provisions of law are clear enough, but it is doubtful if the penalty prevents people from supplying. Is of opinion that Indians, who can purchase at any time, supply to Natives. Few country canteens refuse liquor to Natives.

Resident Magistrate, Lion's River.—Believes that there has been no increase of drinking. Considers provisions clear enough and penalties sufficiently heavy.

Resident Magistrate, Borough Division, Durban.—Has no doubt drinking has greatly increased. Provisions of law are clear enough and penalties, on conviction, sufficiently heavy, but it is impossible to make people virtuous by legislation. To a large extent, Indians act as go-between.

Resident Magistrate, Umlazi Division, Durban.—Drinking much on increase. Provisions clear enough and penalties heavy enough, but law will be inefficient until Indians, Creoles, &c., are restricted. A chief cause of failure in detection is in collusion between Native consumers and illicit suppliers.

Resident Magistrate, Klip River.—No increase. Provisions of law sufficiently clear, and penalties sufficiently severe.

Resident Magistrate, Newcastle.—Believes that increase has been considerable, and that Natives may obtain liquor at many unlicensed as well as licensed houses. Extremely difficult to obtain satisfactory evidence for conviction. Provisions sufficiently clear, but penalties should be increased to 20*l.* for second offence, and 50*l.*, or one year's imprisonment for third offence.

NATAL.

Resident Magistrate, Inanda.—Not aware of increase. Provisions sufficiently clear and prohibitory. Indians who are free to purchase iquor are chief offenders as they carry on an illicit retail trade with Natives. Treacle is purchased by Natives, and made into shimiyana.

Resident Magistrate, Lower Tugela.—Inclination of Natives to obtain liquor has increased. Provisions are clear enough and penalties sufficiently heavy. Prevention rendered impossible by Indians who are at liberty to purchase and who supply Natives.

Resident Magistrate, Umvoti.—No increase. Law clear enough and penalties severe enough. What is wanted is to carry it out effectually, and in this country is fairly well done.

Resident Magistrate, Weenen.—Has increased through medium of Coolies and Creoles. Very difficult to obtain evidence against these people. Provisions of law clear and penalties heavy enough. No one will give evidence unless forced to, or unless actuated by spite against the offender.

Resident Magistrate, Alexandra.—No important increase. Provisions of law would be sufficiently stringent but for facility in obtaining from Indians. Keepers of licensed houses do not nearly so frequently contravene as Indians. Indians should be allowed only to consume on premises and not to carry away.

Resident Magistrate, Alfred.—No increase. Law clear enough and penalties sufficiently heavy.

Resident Magistrate, Upper Umkomanzi.—No increase in country districts. Provisions clear enough. No penalty could prevent spirits reaching a Native determined to have them. Situations often occur in which employers with any feelings of humanity are bound to give alcohol to Natives.

Resident Magistrate, Ixopo.—No marked increased in country districts. Law sufficiently clear, but penalties too low. Penalty for first offence should be 50*l.* or six months' imprisonnent, cancellation of license with inability to holder to apply again for self or premises for five years.

Resident Magistrate, Umsinga.—No increase. Law clear enough and penalties sufficient. The supplying of Natives with European intoxicants in this division is not known.

Resident Magistrate, Polela.—The law has checked drinking generally among the Natives. Penalties sufficiently severe.

Resident Magistrate, Lower Umzimkulu.—Drinking not on increase. Provisions clear enough, and (penalties) heavy enough if carried out properly. Very few detections are made, though an extensive sale is carried on, especially by Coolies.

Administrator of Native Laws, Upper Tugela.—Not aware of increase. Provisions clear enough, penalties heavy enough, if enforced.

Administrator of Native Laws, Pakade.—No increase. Provisions clear enough; penalties sufficiently heavy. Field-Cornets, European, and Native Police will not prosecute on finding contraventions, and should be informed of Attorney-General's ruling as to word "supplying."

Administrator of Native Laws, Mapumulo.—Law sufficiently deterrent when convictions can be obtained. Canteen keepers and Coolies sell by glass, rendering detection nearly impossible. Word "Coolie" should be included in Law 14, 1888. Rum and tshimiyana drinking, almost universal practice on coast.

Administrator of Native Laws, Impendhle.—Drinking has decreased. Provisions quite clear; penalties sufficiently heavy. Licensing Boards should inform applicants as to the meaning of word "Native" defined in Law 14, 1888.

Enclosure No. 6.

MINUTE, 9th September 1889.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS, NATAL, to RESIDENT MAGISTRATES and ADMINISTRATORS of NATIVE LAW.

Circular.

WITH reference to my Circular of the 2nd August, I shall be glad if you will answer the following questions for the information of his Excellency:—

1. Whether any cases of supplying liquor have broken down before you in consequence of no consideration for the liquor being proved to have passed.

   How, before reading the Attorney-General's opinion in my Circular of 2nd August, you have regarded the word "supplying," *i.e.*, have you deemed that it was necessary to prove purchase?

By Command,
J. J. SEWEL,
Chief Clerk,
for Secretary for Native Affairs,
absent on duty.

NATAL.

Enclosure 7.

PRÉCIS of REPLIES received to CIRCULAR, *re* supplying LIQUOR to NATIVES.

Department.	Reply.
City Division, Pietermaritzburg.	Cases of supplying liquor have broken down from want of proof of consideration, but this has been because otherwise no proof of supplying. Majority of cases are police traps, conviction ensured by marked coin. If supply could be otherwise proved, failure to prove consideration would not affect the case. 2. Opinion of Attorney-General not necessary to teach meaning of word "supply." There is no supply of liquor without the passing of money. Real difficulties lie in detection, and is a police question.
Resident Magistrate, Umgeni Division, Pietermaritzburg.	1. No cases have broken down. 2. Has always regarded "supply" to supply in any way; only proviso is in Section 3, Law 22, 78, "in case it shall "be satisfactorily proved that any "such liquor was administered medi- "cinally."
Resident Magistrate, Lions River.	No cases have been brought before him. Did not consider it necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Durban.	1. No cases have so broken down. 2. Did not consider it necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Umladi.	1. No case has broken down. 2. Never regarded supply as purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Klip River.	1. No cases have so broken down. 2. "Supply" always deemed sale, barter, or gift.
Resident Magistrate, Newcastle.	1. No prosecutions have so broken down. 2. Word "otherwise" raises presumption that supplying must be in the way of commerce.
Resident Magistrate, Inanda.	Does not remember any case having broken down, but always considered it necessary to prove consideration.

Department.	Reply.
Resident Magistrate, Lower Tugela.	No cases have broken down in consequence of no consideration. Always construed "supply" in its literal sense. Proof of purchase unnecessary.
Resident Magistrate, Umvoti.	1. No case so broken down. 2. Has never deemed it necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Weenen.	1. No cases have so broken down. 2. Not necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Alexandra.	1. Remembers no case having broken down from such a reason. 2. Never considered it necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Alfred.	1. Knows of no case having broken down for want of such proof. 2. Unnecessary to prove a sale.
Resident Magistrate, Upper Umkomanzi.	1. No case has so broken down. 2. "Supplying," has always been regarding as giving in any way.
Resident Magistrate, Ixopo.	1. No case, &c., &c. 2. Has never deemed it necessary to prove purchase.
Resident Magistrate, Umsinga.	No case has so broken down. 2. Has always regarded "supplying" as sale, gift or delivery in any way.
Resident Magistrate, Polela.	1. No cases of supplying liquor have been brought before me. 2. *Vide* No. 1.
Resident Magistrate, Lower Umzimkulu.	1. Has had no cases supplying liquor before him. 2. Has regarded word supplying implied selling.
Administrator of Native Law, Upper Tugela.	1. No such cases have come before him. 2. Did not deem it necessary to prove purchase.
Administrator of Native Law, Pakade.	1. Such cases do not come before his court. 2. Has regarded "supply" to include even a gift.
Administrator of Native Law, Mapumulo.	1. No cases have come before him. 2. "Supplying" regarded as purchase or gift, unless shown that it was required for medicinal purposes.
Administrator of Native Law, Impendhle.	1. No cases have been brought before him. 2. Did not deem it necessary to prove purchase.

Enclosure 8.

MINUTE, 14th June 1889.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS to SUPERVISORS of NATIVE LOCATIONS.

The sale of intoxicating liquor to Natives has again been brought to the notice of the Government, and I have now to request that you will forward a report, dealing generally with the question. From your own knowledge, and from what you may have observed since your appointment you will probably be able to answer the following questions:—

No. 1.—Do Indians sell spirits to Natives? If so, is this done to a great extent?

No. 2.—Do Indians obtain the spirits from canteens or licensed hotels?

No. 3.—If so, are these canteens or licensed hotels situated on location lands?

No. 4.—Do Natives prefer spirits to Isitshimiyana?

I shall be glad if you will forward me, for his Excellency's information, a full report on this subject; at the same time making any suggestions you may think fit for the prevention of sale of spirituous liquors in any form to Natives.

By command,
(Signed) H. C. SHEPSTONE,
Secretary of Native Affairs.

REPORT by SUPERVISOR of NATIVE LOCATIONS, PINETOWN, on SALE of INTOXICATING LIQUORS to NATIVES.

SIR, Pinetown, June 24, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, received just as I was leaving Beaumont to visit Umlaas location, *re* sale of spirituous liquor to Natives.

No. 1.—Yes; Indians do sell spirits to Natives; this the Durban Magistrates' books prove; one woman alone, has, I believe, been fined 100*l.* sterling in 10*l.* fines.

No. 2.—I believe Indians get their drink from both canteens and licensed hotels, the former I know sell by the bottle, as our own Coolies used to buy from three to four bottles at a time.

No. 3.—I have not seen either canteens or hotels in the location, but there are six on the borders, viz.: Umromaas, Amangamtöte, Illovo, Umlaas, Bother's, and Gillett's. These are all near enough for the Natives to get their supply from, which, I am told, they do, and mentioned the same in court to the magistrate in Pinetown, suggesting a constable being sent in plain clothes to "spy out the

land." I also think it would be well not to grant licences to any storekeeper to sell spirits within 10 miles of the location boundaries, as Natives can get drink at these places.

No. 4.—Most decidedly Natives do prefer spirits to Isithimyona; the latter is only made as they cannot afford to buy a sufficient quantity of spirit to satisfy them.

I would beg to suggest as a means to put a stop to the drinking amongst Natives that a law be passed, that no Indian be allowed to buy spirits by the bottle or in any quantity, only to get his glass over the counter. This would prevent them selling it, and it is the Indians who permeate the country, diffusing the vile stuff among the Natives, trading with it for hides and fowls. This I have not seen but I have been told it, if they could not buy it they could not sell it, and why should one nation be more privleged than the other?

I would also like to make another suggestion. Isithimyona is made to a large extent along the coast portion of my location, where treacle is easily obtained. This could be in a great measure mitigated by each Supervisor being allowed two constables who would be on the alert going from kraal to kraal and finding out the hiding places (for its not kept in the huts) and for each case reported the finder to have so much given to him as a reward, for until it is put a stop to, there is little hope of improving the Native mind or of getting them interested in cultivating their land, or in any way raising them from their demoralized state. They (speaking generally) think of little else, but eating drinking and sleeping, while their women are made slaves of, and are looked upon as being the value of so many cows.

It would also tend to raise the Supervisor in the eyes of the Natives were they allowed constables, as the question is repeatedly put to me by the natives, "If you are an 'Inkosi' where are your policemen?" This is doubtless obvious to one so well acquainted with Natives as yourself.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RALPH CLARENCE,
Supervisor of Native Locations.

Hon. Sec. for Native Affairs.

REPORT by SUPERVISOR of NATIVE LOCATIONS, INANDA, on SALE of INTOXICATING LIQUORS to NATIVES.

In reply to the first question:—I have not heard of any Indians, nor have I seen any, with spirits in their possession for the purpose of selling it to Natives, in the different locations under my charge.

The second question:—I can make no reply to.

In reply to the third question:—I am not aware of any canteens or licensed hotels on the location lands, in fact there are none to my knowledge.

In reply to the fourth question:—From what I have observed seen, and heard, to my knowledge, Natives generally do prefer

NATAL.

spirits to isithimiyani. There is a natural liking with the Natives for anything made by Europeans, more so now, than formerly. Natives are known to be fond of that which causes sudden warmth to the body, and are known to linger for the last drop if there is any chance of getting it.

Several Indians come into the locations buying fowls with money, and leaf-tobacco, but in no case have I found them with spirits. I have seen but two cases of drunkenness since my appointment, both cases were from Mabele beer, but there is good deal of treacle passing my hut, sometimes twice and three times during the week. They buy the treacle for mealies, at Mr. W. Groom's (Inanda). I would not like to say that there has been no selling of spirits to Natives in these locations; I, personally, am not aware of any. I do not think it would be a bad plan to have under each Chief a detective policeman known to the Chief, who would or should assist the detective in stamping out the evil isithimiyani is creating amongst them, and each case should be taken before the Resident Magistrate to deal with. There is no doubt that a good deal of isithimiyani is made and is being made. I am told that the winter months is when it is made mostly. The Indians require strict attention; in every case of selling liquor to Natives they should be punished severely.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. FAYLE, Jun.,
Supervisor, Native Locations,
Inanda Division.

29th June 1889.

REPORT by SUPERVISOR of NATIVE LOCATIONS, DUMISA, on SALE of INTOXICATING LIQUORS to NATIVES

In the discharge of my duties, during the past six months, travelling about the Locations has enabled me to become acquainted with the general conduct and habits of the Natives under my supervision. May also state that I lived in the North Coast part of the Colony about 30 years; am therefore acquainted with the habits and customs of the Natives generally.

Upon taking up my duties here as Supervisor, coming in daily contact with so much drunkenness, among both male and female, I made a decided stand against drink, and held continual interviews with Chiefs and Headmen, strongly urging upon them the necessity of putting a stop to so much drunkenness. The knowledge of my antipathy to drink has prevented me from obtaining much information on the various ways and means liquor is obtained, and can only conjecture, from the information I have obtained, the supplies are being drawn from country stores.

The general impression that the drunkenness amongst Natives of this district is occasioned by the use of European spirituous

liquors is erroneous; the consumption of these is small (and confined to the male parts of the community) in comparison with that of utwala (as at present made and in general consumption), and isithimyani; I refer to the utwala as at present made, because I have found that the Natives do not use the utwala as it was formerly made 10 or 12 years ago, which to my knowledge was void of that exceeding intoxicating effect. I believe the juice of the imphy is expressed and allowed to ferment, and then mixed with the utwala, giving it something of the nature of isitshimyani.

The Natives are in the habit of gathering together daily, men, women, and all but the smaller children to drink this beer, revelling in drunkenness and obscene acts, unfit for paper, engendering extreme indolence, immorality, and lawlessness, out of which arise faction fights and assault cases.

No. 1.—Do Indians sell spirits to Natives? If so, is this done to a great extent?

I regret being unable to give an absolute negative answer to this question. I have no doubt that liquor is supplied by itinerant dealers, who go to and from the towns; they do not, however, sell large quantities at a time, as the hawkers carry their packages on their backs. The towns and villages are a considerable distance from location areas.

No. 2.—Do the Indians obtain the spirits from the canteens or licensed hotels?

Indians, of course, can obtain their supplies of liquor anywhere it is sold, and it is much to be regretted that some restrictions cannot be put upon them, for so long as they obtain it themselves they will supply it to the Natives with a very handsome profit to themselves.

No. 3.—If so, are these canteens or licensed hotels situated on location lands?

There is to my knowledge only one licensed hotel situated on location lands in this division. From personal knowledge no traffic in liquor to Natives or Coolies has been done for the past six months.

No. 4.—Do Natives prefer spirits to isitshimyani?

This is a difficult question to answer from the general expression of Natives. I might answer in the negative, but this may, to some extent, require to be qualified, as the Natives are fully aware that the sale of spirits is a breach of the law, and would naturally deny the partiality for it; on the other hand, isitshimyani, containing more body, acts in a measure as food, and on that account may be preferred to rum generally.

As regards suggestions for the prevention of sale of spirituous liquors, I must admit it to be a very difficult problem, and requires a far abler pen than mine. To prevent the sale by Indian hawkers, I would suggest that a rather heavy hawkers' license, so as to be a barrier altogether to hawking, as I see no benefit deriving therefrom to the Natives.

NATAL.

Competition in Native storekeeping prevents exorbitant charges and the number of stores scattered throughout the country. They (the Natives) would be in no way inconvenienced. Its tendency is to further a state of indolence already predominant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BALCOMB,
Supervisor, Native Locations,
Alexandra.

9th July 1889.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 104.

NATAL.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 60.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

LONDON:
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1890.

[C.—5897.–34.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
55	Bahamas	1888
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turk's and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9

No. 104.

NATAL.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 60.]

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
MY LORD, June 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the NATAL BLUE BOOK for 1889.

1. The most striking feature in the returns for 1889 is the increase of the Colony's revenue by one third, and of the value of its imports by nearly three fifths, over the revenue and imports respectively for the preceding year. There is, of course, an intimate connexion between Natal's revenue and imports, for commerce with the interior States is by far the largest contributor to the Colony's exchequer: this is apparent from the fact that receipts for customs duties and railway carriage formed 70 per centum of the entire revenue for 1889.

2. A glance at the map of South Africa will show that Natal enjoys the advantage of being able to provide the shortest route from the sea to most parts of the Orange Free State and South African Republic, and the Colony has not been slow to avail itself of this natural advantage. A low customs tariff, extensive harbour works and wharf accommodation, and a railway running to within a few miles of the borders of the Colony, bear witness of the determination to spare neither money nor energy to secure to Natal that inland trade which must of necessity be drawn to the sea ports offering the cheapest and fastest means of communication with the interior.

3. The extension northwards of the railway, which now passes through the centre of the coal-bearing districts of the Colony, has added a stimulus to a most important industry. Hitherto the cost of carriage of coal has militated against the profitable working of the mines which are distant from 200 to 250 miles from the port; and it may be said that the real development of Natal's coal

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NATAL.

resources dates from the year 1889. The close of that year saw a dozen collieries at work, and in a position to supply a large proportion of the coal required by the railway and harbour departments as well as by other customers. There is no doubt that in the near future Durban will be a most important coaling station, and there need be no limit to the quantity of coal which can be sent frem Natal's mines for the use of steamers trading to this Colony or calling at the port for supplies.

4. The gold fields of the South African Republic, being of great extent and value, will continue to support a large population, and there is no reason to anticipate any material diminution of the numbers now engaged in gold mining; but there is unmistakeable evidence of depression following upon mismanagement, inexperience, and consequent waste of money, in the working of the mines, upon the floating of companies with insufficient capital and the subsequent stoppage of work for want of means, and also upon the floatation of companies for the working of properties which have afterwards proved worthless. The inevitable result must be that many of the gold-bearing reefs will pass into the hands of others who, by scientific working and proper management, will carry on the mining profitably. The total output of gold in the Transvaal for 1889 may be put down at 442,500 ozs., representing a value of over 1,500,000*l.*

5. A return of the revenue, expenditure, and trade of the colony, for the last 20 years is appended (Appendix A.).

Revenue.

6. The revenue proper for 1889 was 1,327,105*l.* as compared with 990,614*l.* for 1888, and, as will be seen from the following figures, nearly every head of service showed an increase over the receipts for the previous year:—

	1888.	1889.
	£	£
Railways	349,184	548,698
Customs	290,089	369,461
Native hut tax	74,319	76,005
Native squatters' rent	11,153	11,769
Mail service	38,092	44,965
Land sales	26,550	34,613
Telegraphs	16,722	29,271
Stamps, licenses, and dues	34,115	28,412
Excise	19,381	23,472
Wharf dues	19,022	25,583
Port and harbour dues	12,538	15,756
Transfer duties	8,663	16,268
Fines and fees of court	10,745	12,536

The foregoing are the largest items of revenue; the falling off under the head of stamps, licenses, &c., is accounted for by the abolition, from the 1st January 1889, of waggon licenses.

Expenditure.

7. Exclusive of that from loan funds, the expenditure of the year was 1,146,080*l.*, as against 781,326*l.* for 1888, an advance of 364,754*l.* Four fifths of this increase is to be found in the expenditure of the Railway and Public Works Departments. The raising of a loan of 500,000*l.* during the year and the conversion of loans added 17,240*l.* to the amount expended in 1888 under the head of Public Debt; additions to establishments, more particularly in the Customs, Postal, and Telegraph Departments, were necessitated by the rapid increase of work which has lately taken place; the disbursements on account of Colonial defence and of immigration considerably exceeded those for the previous year.

Public Debt.

8. The public debt amounted, on the 31st December 1889, to 5,035,126*l.* In June 1889, a loan of 500,000*l.* at 3½ per centum was raised through the Crown agents, the average rate of the tenders being 100*l.* 12*s.* per centum: this 500,000*l.* forms part of a loan of 1,500,000*l.*, authorised for railway extension and other public works, the balance not yet having been floated.

9. The total expenditure from loan funds during 1889 amounted to 790,371*l.*, made up as follows:—

	£
Sundays River and further railway extension loan - - -	330,370
Public works loan - - -	34,262
Harbour works loan - - -	87,000
Loan Law 49, 1887 - - -	3,125
Loan Law 12, 1889 - - -	7,387
Railway Loans Balance Fund Law 1888	19,214
Conversion of loans - - -	9,013

Shipping and Trade.

10. The following are the ships which arrived at Port Natal during 1889:—

	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
British.				
Sailing - - - -	88	26,708		
Steam - - - -	335	437,238		
			423	463,946
Foreign.				
Sailing - - - -	130	46,742		
Steam - - - -	2	2,672		
			132	49,414
Total - - -	—	—	555	513,360

NATAL.

The corresponding figures for 1888 are :—

	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
British.				
Sailing - - - -	90	21,035		
Steam - - - -	248	301,612		
			338	322,647
Foreign				
Sailing - - - -	108	38,538		
Steam - - - -	1	1,052		
			109	39,590
Total - - -	—	—	447	362,237

11. The value of imports for 1889 was 4,527,015*l.* as against 2,890,468*l.* for 1888, an increase of 1,636,547*l.*

By Law 1, 1889, which came into operation in June 1889, the *ad valorem* rate of Customs duty was lowered from 7*l.* to 5*l.* per centum, the duty on some of the specially rated goods was reduced and several articles were placed on the free list. Notwithstanding this alteration of the tariff, Customs revenue showed an increase of 79,271*l.* The following articles imported during 1889 more largely exceeded the imports for 1888 :—

	1888.	1889.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Ale and beer in bottles - - -	25,284	55,180	29,896
Apparel and slops - - -	295,348	372,616	77,268
Cabinet and upholstery ware - -	54,232	116,840	62,608
Coffee - - - - -	63,865	103,903	40,038
Flour, meal and bran - - -	54,322	98,067	43,745
Haberdashery and millinery - -	290,370	434,133	143,763
Iron of all sorts - - -	130,586	217,408	86,822
Ironmongery and hardware - -	177,337	302,500	125,163
Leather, manufactured - - -	120,060	164,021	43,961
Machinery - - - -	108,075	245,683	137,608
Oilman's stores - - - -	55,996	107,739	51,743
Plate and jewellery - -	17,825	63,180	45,355
Preserved provisions, fruit, &c. -	35,011	72,243	37,232
Rice - - - - -	23,961	53,894	29,933
Saddlery and harness - - -	37,676	68,168	30,492
Spirits of all kinds - - -	61,784	120,360	58,576
Tobacco, manufactured - - -	8,267	25,406	17,139
Cigars - - - - -	7,826	20,306	12,480
Wine in bottles - - - -	22,684	57,982	35,298
Government stores and railway materials	105,273	348,062	242,789

12. The following goods were removed in bond for conveyance beyond the borders of the Colony, paying no other duty than the transit dues provided under Law 4, 1886:—

——	1888.	1889.	Transit charge.
Spirits, gin - -	44,659 galls.	81,530 galls.	3*d.* per gall.
Other sorts - -	63,293 galls.	104,348½ galls.	6*d.* per gall.
Tea - - -	275,233 lbs.	450,208 lbs.	1*d.* per lb.
Tobacco, manufactured -	11,661 lbs.	39,777 lbs.	6*d.* per lb.
Cigars - - -	9,890 lbs.	33,172 lbs.	6*d.* per lb.
Wine in bottle - -	17,972 galls.	37,056 galls.	6*d.* per gall.
„ wood - -	10,823 galls.	16,953 galls.	6*d.* per gall.

The total transit charges amounted in 1888 to 4,546*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1889 to 8,678*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*

13. Exports increased from 1,417,871*l.* in 1888 to 1,656,318*l.* in 1889, but these figures do not include exports by inland routes, no record being kept of such exports.

The following are the values of the chief exports by sea for the two last years:—

——	1888.	1889.
	£	£
Wool - - - - -	745,749	752,182
Hair, angora - - - -	21,610	18,133
Hides, ox and cow - - -	58,254	55,793
Skins, calf, sheep and goat - -	11,314	13,529
Horns, ox and cow - - -	2,336	2,730
Sugar, unrefined - - -	71,912	93,990
Spirits, rum - - - -	1,912	1,263
Arrowroot - - - -	3,784	1,660
Bark - - - - -	410	2,783
Fruit, fresh - - - -	2,085	2,215
Ores, copper - - - -	860	1,130
Ivory - - - - -	2,183	185
Gold, rough - - - -	391,643	584,933

NATAL.

14. The following are the exports of rough gold from Natal and Cape Porto from 1885 to 1889 :—

From	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
	£	£	£	£	£
Natal - -	52,222	113,166	143,551	392,502	584,933
Cape Porto - -	17,321	23,914	92,936	517,176	860,271
Total -	69,543	137,080	236,487	909,678	1,445,204

Railways.

15. The railway is a single line of 3′ 6″ gauge. The number of miles open for traffic at the end of 1889 was 259¼, Biggarsberg Junction (42 miles beyond Ladysmith) being the temporary terminus. The rails, however, were laid to Newcastle by the 31st December, and good progress was being made with the works to the border of the Colony at Charlestown, a point 36 miles beyond Newcastle. The first sod of the railway from Ladysmith to the border at Van Reenan's Pass was turned on the 7th November 1889, and, under a convention, entered into between the Governments of Natal and the Orange Free State, this line will be continued to Harrismith; the length of this railway will be approximately 60 miles, about 24 of which will be in Orange Free State territory.

16. The amount spent on the construction of the open lines to the present date is, roughly, 3,000,000*l.* The actual revenue earned by the Railway Department during the year 1889 was 535,261*l.*, the working expenses (excluding capital expenditure) amounted to 300,248*l.*, leaving a net revenue of 235,013*l.*: this represents an interest upon capital, after payment of working expenditure, of 7*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* per centum. A summary is annexed (Appendix B.) of the traffic of the Railway Department for 1888 and 1889.

Public Works.

17. The year 1889 was an exceptionally busy one for the Public Works Department, and many large and necessary works were carried out. The new Legislative Council buildings were completed in time for the session of the Legislative Council held during the year. Bridges were placed over the Umgeni and Elands rivers, a new court house was erected at Greytown, and additions to the central gaol, Pietermaritzburg, and lunatic asylum were in progress.

18. The battery on the Bluff to be mounted with two 6″ guns was nearly completed at the end of the year, and a site for a battery on the Back Beach, to the north of the entrance to the harbour, was selected; this last-named battery will probably be ready by the middle of 1891.

Harbour Works.

19. The Harbour Board has made vigorous progress with the works being prosecuted under its direction. During 1889 wharf extension was carried on and increased goods shed accommodation was provided, but much remains to be done to meet the requirements. The reclamation by the Board of about 50 acres of land at the Point has rendered available much valuable space for wharfage. Four dredgers were at work during the year in deepening the anchorage inside the bay, and in widening the channels and removing sand accumulations. The south, or Innes' breakwater has advanced rapidly, and at the end of last year had a total length, to the end of its staging and foundations, of 1,916 feet, the length of superstructure being 1,631 feet. The north pier, which has a length of 1,935 feet, was not extended during the year. The expenditure by the Board on these two outer works amounted at the close of the year to about 260,000*l.*

20. The average depth of water on the bar for the last eight years was as follows :—

	Ft.	In.
1882 - - - - -	6	1
1883 - - - - -	6	1½
1884 - - - - -	7	2
1885 - - - - -	8	4
1886 - - - - -	8	3¾
1887 - - - - -	10	7
1888 - - - - -	11	6¾
1889 - - - - -	11	4½

The loss of depth in 1889 as compared with 1888 is to be attributed, wholly or in part, to heavy weather during certain months of the first-named year.

Notwithstanding this loss, however, steamers measuring 107,000 tons were brought into harbour as against 49,471 tons in 1888.

The following comparison is interesting :—

	1888.	1889.
Average tonnage of each vessel brought in, in tons register - - - -	419	568
Maximum draught in feet and inches of vessel brought in - - -	16 ft. 2 in.	17 ft. 4 in.
Maximum tonnage of any vessel brought in, in tons register - - - -	1,166	1,971
Greatest length of any vessel brought inside - - - - -	270 ft. 4 in.	350 ft. 8 in.

NATAL.

Immigration.

21. *Indian.*—The number of Indian immigrants who arrived in Natal during 1889 was as follows:—1,961 men, 813 women, 195 boys, 149 girls, 251 infants=3,369 souls, or 2,946 statute adults. The number of Indians returned to India during the year was 267 men, 109 women, 74 boys, 83 girls, 41 infants=574 souls, or 454½ statute adults.

22. *European.*—Under a scheme approved by the Governor in Council in the early part of 1889, for the introduction of nominated immigrants by "assisted" passages, 650 persons came into the Colony during the year, and, in addition, 75 artizans for the Railway and Public Works Departments, and 30 recruits for the Natal Mounted Police were introduced at the contract rate of passage. A sum of 6,167*l.* was expended for the assisted passages of nominated immigrants.

Population.

23. The returns give the population of Natal for 1889 as follows:—

Whites.

Males - - -	20,109	
Females - - -	17,281	
		37,390

Coolies.

Males - - -	20,377	
Females - - -	13,103	
		33,480

Natives.

Males - - -	200,351	
Females - - -	258,937	
		459,288
Total -		530,158

Agriculture.

24. The dry season of 1889 was very injurious to farming operations, and, as a consequence, the prices of many commodities rose abnormally. The returns show a falling off in the crops of Indian corn, tobacco, coffee, arrowroot and other produce. The output of sugar for 1889 was about 16,000 tons; that for the previous year was about the same. 165,631 gallons of rum were

distilled during the year as against 148,824 gallons in 1888. The cultivation of tea in the coast districts of the Colony has attracted attention during the last few years, and promises, though the enterprise is still in its infancy, to be attended with great success. The quantity produced in 1889 was between 200,000 and 300,000 lbs.; the tea is of good quality, and finds a ready market.

25. The ease with which trees of almost every variety are grown in Natal is remarkable, and the subject of forestry has been receiving the consideration of the Government. The services of a competent officer were obtained in 1889 with a view to an examination being made of the native forests of the country, and to advice being given as to the best means of conserving and extending the forests; the report on the subject had not been presented at the end of the year. One of the most valuable trees introduced into the country is the acacia mollissima, or wattle, as it grows easily and quickly, producing useful timber, and proving most profitable on account of the bark, which is a remunerative article of export.

26. Sheep farming and stock breeding are successfully carried on in many parts of the Colony, but the scarcity of pasturage which followed upon the drought of 1889 occasioned heavy losses to owners of stock. The feasibility of irrigating land is a question that is being brought forward; indeed much remains to be done for the development of Natal's resources which are equalled by few other Colonies.

(Signed) C. BIRD,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Natal, 9th June 1890.

APPENDIX A.

Revenue, Expenditure, and Trade of the Colony of Natal, 1870 to 1889.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Value of		
			Imports.	Exports.	Customs Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£
1870 -	126,29[illegible]	117,009	429,527	382,979	47,090
1871 -	125,628	118,657	472,444	562,109	47,022
1872 -	180,498	132,978	825,252	622,797	81,915
1873 -	208,086	182,224	1,011,465	651,028	96,003
1874 -	247,259	254,402	1,121,948	770,034	109,725
1875 -	260,271	307,025	1,208,838	835,643	114,777
1876 -	265,551	261,933	1,022,890	657,390	97,118
1877 -	272,473	283,823	1,167,402	689,817	106,287
1878 -	369,383	434,632	1,719,562	694,192	162,953
1879 -	473,478	491,883	2,176,356	583,711	228,558
1880 -	582,715	494,436	2,336,584	890,874	250,783
1881 -	612,961	524,444	1,912,856	768,038	201,298
1882 -	657,737	659,031*	2,213,538	738,809	221,045
1883 -	620,496	697,265*	1,751,107	831,747	165,007
1884 -	610,936	707,528*	1,675,850	957,918	179,908
1885 -	669,831	774,159*	1,518,557	877,483	163,839
1886 -	600,177	717,414*	1,331,115	960,290	140,402
1887 -	816,816	689,573*	2,263,920	1,056,959	231,412
1888 -	990,614	781,326*	2,890,468	1,417,871	290,089
1889 -	1,327,105	1,146,080*	4,527,015	1,656,318	369,461

* The figures given do not include expenditure from loan funds.

APPENDIX B.

Traffic of the Railway Department, 1888 *and* 1889.

Year.	Average Number of Miles open.	Passenger Traffic.		Goods Traffic.	
		Number of Passengers.	Gross Receipts.	Tons.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1888 - -	220½	391,513	66,102 8 3	194,316	277,636 7 2
1889 - -	225	514,464	97,125 11 1	267,104	432,525 9 5

(*continued.*)

Year.	Miscellaneous Revenue.	Total Revenue.	Miles run.	Receipts per Train Mile.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		s. d.
1888 - -	4,243 5 2	347,982 0 7	938,444	7 4·99
1889 - -	5,609 15 6	535,260 16 0	1,320,160	8 1·30

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 87.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 46.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.—17.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
37	Ceylon	1887
38	British New Guinea	"
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	"
43	Victoria	"
44	British Bechuanaland	"
45	New Guinea	"
46	Newfoundland	"
47	New Zealand	"
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	"
50	Bermuda	"
51	Trinidad	"
52	Turks Islands	"
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	"
54	Falkland Islands	"
55	Bahamas	"
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	"
59	Straits	"
60	Natal	"
61	Gambia	"
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	"
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	"
86	Heligoland	1889

No. 87.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 46.)

Sir TERENCE O'BRIEN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
February 18, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1888, together with the usual report thereon, drawn up, during the absence of the Colonial Secretary on his electioneering campaign, by the chief clerk in his office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. O'BRIEN, Lieut.-Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
February 1, 1890.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the Blue Book of the Colony for 1888, and regret that circumstances have prevented it being forwarded at an earlier period.

The Government recognise the force of the remarks made by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Despatch of the 11th February last in relation to the value of an earlier transmission of the Blue Book, and will direct that every effort be made to have the necessary returns furnished at a date that will permit an earlier compilation.

The statistics in relation to the trade of the Colony show an encouraging expansion in both Imports and Exports, and, taken in connexion with the widening of the fields of industry, in the extension of the bank fishery and the lobster fishery, in the greater development of mining and agriculture, point hopefully to a permanent improvement in the condition of the people of this Colony.

o 62070. Wt. 19305.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Imports and Exports.

The Imports amounted to $7,420,400, an increase of $2,022,992 over $5,397,408 in 1887, and it is satisfactory to note that the increase is largely of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom, which rose from $1,590,914 in 1887 to $3,265,229 in 1888. Staple articles of consumption were also in excess, such as flour, molasses, sugar, and kerosene oil.

The Exports (exclusive of the Labrador) were $6,523,137 against $5,176,730, showing an increase of $1,346,407. The shipments of codfish were slightly in excess of those of 1887, 953,000 quintals against 913,000 quintals, but better prices gave an increased value of $425,000. The lobster fishery shows continued expansion. In 1884 the export was valued at $60,000, in 1888 it is stated at $385,000, and it is satisfactory to know that Newfoundland brands commanded the highest market price. In spite of the collapse of the Copper Mining Syndicate, and the fall in the price of copper which followed, the mines of Newfoundland have been worked to a larger extent than ever before, the export of ore and ingots being valued at $816,383. Large numbers of our population are engaged directly or indirectly in the mining industry, and the conversion of the ore into copper has added largely to the labour employed. Of the total export of 5,823 tons 2,500 tons have been submitted to smelting process, 1,205 tons being pure copper. The mining of iron pyrites for the sake of the sulphur has lately assumed considerable proportions, and as the country abounds in this ore it is probable that largely increased shipments will be made in succeeding years, adding materially to the prosperity of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Customs Revenue of the Colony on a somewhat increased tariff rose from $1,083,783 in 1887 to $1,251,932 in 1888. The total Revenue for 1888, including loans, was $1,730,029.

The Expenditure also advanced in 1888, and attained to a sum of $1,831,441. The increase over 1887 was largely due to the payment to the Municipal Council of St. John's of $160,000 as authorised under Municipal Act, but also to a repayment of debentures which became due to the amount of $38,910, and to the expenditure of $41,163 in carrying out the Bait Act. The interest on the Public Debt showed an increase of $ 0,296.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt on 31st December 1888 was $3,335,589. 30.

Fisheries.

The fisheries were prosecuted in their various branches with

varying success. The seal fishery showed an improvement upon the past year notwithstanding that second trips of steamers have been discontinued; prices for both seal and cod oil ruled low, with no immediate prospect of a rise; but an increase in the value of seal skins enabled shippers to market the catch with satisfactory results. The shore codfishery, which for many years past has been only partially successful, cannot be said to show any signs of recuperation, but a most successful Bank fishery—fortunately a largely increasing proportion of the fishing industry of the Colony—and a fair catch on the Labrador, made up a total result considerably more favourable to the Colony than that of 1887.

The salmon fishery exhibits a continued decline, but the lobster packing industry shows a large expansion each year.

On an address of he Legislature the Government appointed in August 1887 a Fishery Commission to inquire into what was being done in other countries for the protection and development of the fisheries, with a view to the adoption of any methods that might be found suitable to the circumstances of the Colony. The Commission recommended as a first requisite the immediate appointment of a superintendent to take charge of all inquiries and experiments, and in September 1888 Mr. Adolph Neilson of Norway was appointed to that position. It is proposed to establish fish hatcheries in two or three of the large bays, with the view, if possible, of restocking the depleted inshore fishing areas with cod, salmon, and lobster, and the erection of one of those hatcheries will be the first work to be undertaken by Mr. Neilson.

Labrador.

There are no official returns of the exports of this Dependency of Newfoundland as there are no Custom Houses on the coast, but from statements made by shippers it is learnt that there were:—

	$
222,183 quintals cod fish exported, valued at	755,422
13,570 barrels herring - - -	46,138
624 tierces salmon - - -	12,480
	814,040

Agriculture.

Under the stimulus of the Act for the encouragement of agriculture considerable development was made in 1888 in the cultivation of the land. Three thousand and forty-three applicants availed themselves of the benefit of the Act, and cleared and broke up 1,794 acres, the bonus on which amounted to $20,392. Under the Act 49 Vict. c. 3. an agricultural district was created near Dildo Pond, upon which about thirty families have been settled. These families have been assisted in building their houses and in procuring seed, and it is hoped that in a year or so they

NEWFOUNDLAND.

may be able to make themselves independent of further Government aid. The cost of the district to end of 1888 was $2,286.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. WITHERS,
For Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir J. Terence O'Brien, K.C.M.G.,
Governor.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 103.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

FOR THE PERIOD

4TH SEPT. 1888 TO 30TH JUNE 1889;

WITH A

DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE THEREON.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 45.)

Maps will be found at page 87.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.–33.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
51	Trinidad	1888
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's visit)	1890

No. 103.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 45.]

Sir H. W. NORMAN (Queensland) to Lord KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Brisbane,
February 20, 1890.

MY LORD,

BY Clause II. of the Royal Instructions to the Administrator of British New Guinea, dated the 8th June 1888, that officer is directed to correspond with the Governor of Queensland on all subjects connected with his office, and to transmit to him all official reports and information respecting the same; and by Clause XX. of the Schedule to the British New Guinea (Queensland) Act of 1887 the Governor of Queensland is directed to consult his Executive Council upon all matters relating to British New Guinea.

In obedience to these instructions, and also in accordance with the terms of your Despatch dated the 20th June 1888,* para. 2. I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship six copies of the First Annual Report of the Administrator of British New Guinea, dated 18th November 1889, which has been printed at the Government press at Brisbane.

2. The period which the Report covers extends from the 4th September 1888, the date on which the Queen's Sovereignty was proclaimed in the Possession to the end of the financial year on the 30th June 1889.

3. Having referred this Report for the observations of my Ministers, I beg to enclose copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary, dated 13th instant, in which Mr. Morehead, on behalf of the Government of Queensland, expresses the very great interest and appreciation with which he has perused this comprehensive record of the valuable work performed by Sir William MacGregor.

4. Although I assumed the government of Queensland two months before the expiration of the period over which the Annual Report extends, I had not during that period any correspondence of importance with the Administrator, who was then engaged in a remarkable exploration of the Owen Stanley range of mountains, and was unable therefore to take much part in any administrative action; but I think the report shows that a good foundation for the administration of the Possession had been laid prior to the departure of Sir William MacGregor on this successful expedition.

* No. 75 in [C.—5883], August 1889.

o 63128. Wt. 19305.

Legislation.

5. The record of legislation shows that a small body of Ordinances was passed, sufficient for the commencement of the administration. The laws of Queensland were, speaking generally, made applicable to the Possession, and courts were established. Laws were also passed for other useful purposes, but the most important were those which prohibit the supply of firearms or ammunition or of intoxicants to the natives, or the alienation of land from the natives, or the removal of the aboriginal natives from their districts. These are all beneficent measures and in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Administration of Justice.

6. As might have been expected, the Courts established have as yet had little business, but their influence doubtless is good, and the work will become heavier as time goes on.

Visits of Inspection.

7. It will be seen that Sir William MacGregor was, during a considerable period, engaged on tours of inspection of a very useful character. His account of these tours is very interesting, and no doubt his visits have had a good effect. While his treatment of the natives is conciliatory, his persevering and gallant efforts, which resulted in the capture and punishment of the natives who destroyed the vessel "Star of Peace" and murdered the captain, must have had an excellent effect. Great credit is due to Sir W. MacGregor and those who so well supported him on this expedition, and it is satisfactory to find that he also succeeded in arresting persons engaged in two other murder cases. We may hope that the action taken on these tours will help to push forward the civilisation of the natives of British New Guinea, and it is very gratifying to observe that Sir W. MacGregor bears willing testimony to the excellent work of the missionaries of the London Society, and especially to that of the Rev. James Chalmers and the Rev. W. G. and Mrs. Lawes, both in this chapter and under the head of "Mission Work."

The report of Sir W. MacGregor's great tour of exploration up the Vanapa River and in the Owen Stanley range of mountains has already been forwarded to your Lordship and has elicited the approbation of the Sovereign.

Government Property.

8. I do not think I need say anything respecting the heads "Government Property," "Establishments," or "Legislative Council," except to remark that the addition recently made to the vessels at the disposal of the Administrator, of the "Merrie

England," steam yacht, and of a substantial steam launch, purchased at the cost of the Imperial Government, will add greatly to the facility with which Sir W. MacGregor will be able to carry out tours of inspection or of exploration.

Trade Shipping.

9. The return of imports and exports shows that there is already the nucleus of a trade which will no doubt increase.

It is very satisfactory to find the gold miners, who have been working on the Islands of St. Aignan and Sud Est, have been well conducted. It does not appear that their operations are very successful. It appears probable that there may eventually be a considerable export of timber, of cocoanuts, and of copra.

Land.

10. From the remarks of the Administrator it seems that there is not much land likely to be available for settlers, and I think the wisdom of the provision that no land can be obtained from natives direct is unquestionable, and may prevent misunderstandings and quarrels.

Finance.

11. It will be seen that the expenditure has been within the limit of the sums available from the contributing Colonies, and that revenue collected, to the amount of 2,679*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, has, under the terms of the agreement, been paid over to the Queensland Treasury. This may be looked on as a most satisfactory result to have attained in the first year of the administration.

Scientific Results.

12. It is fortunate that the Administrator is most anxious to obtain the best scientific results on his visits and tours and that he is well able to judge for himself in such matters. The scientific collections, therefore, are made with judgment, and the various reports on collections, which are attached as Appendices, will be found to be of interest and value.

13. Sir W. MacGregor does justice to the interest shown in the Possession and to the readiness to aid him which has always been displayed by the Government of Queensland collectively and by its members individually, including especially my lamented predecessor, Sir Anthony Musgrave, Sir A. Palmer, who administered the government for more than six months of the period under report, Mr. Morehead, and Mr. Thynne, the latter of whom and Sir Charles Lilley, the Chief Justice, greatly aided Sir W. MacGregor in the preparation of draft Proclamations and Ordi-

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

nances. Sir W. MacGregor also, at the commencement of his report, mentions the very valuable aid he received from Mr. John Douglas, C.M.G., who had very special knowledge of New Guinea affairs, and also from Mr. Robert Gray, the then Under Colonial Secretary of Queensland.

I think it only right to mention from my own experience that all the Ministers of this Colony take an interest in the Possession, and are always ready to assist in its administration in a most public spirited manner.

14. The thanks of the Administrator are freely given to the various officers serving under his orders. They all seem to have worked well under the inconveniences and drawbacks of a service in a country where there is much to try a European, and Mr. Winter, Chief Judicial Officer, Mr. Musgrave as Government Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Hely, and Mr. F. Lawes seem to be especially deserving of your Lordship's encouragement.

15. I think we may look upon the results of the first ten months of the administration of British New Guinea as satisfactory, and I feel certain that under Sir William MacGregor's just and energetic rule the Possession will make much progress during the present and the coming year, and that the natives will more and more appreciate and become more alive to the benefits of a kindly but firm system of government and to the advantage of civilisation and peace.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
February 13, 1890.

SIR,

IN returning to your Excellency the first Annual Report of His Honour the Administrator of British New Guinea, embracing the period from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889, I have the honour on behalf of the Government of Queensland to express the very great interest and appreciation with which I have perused this comprehensive record of the valuable work performed by Sir William MacGregor.

Copies of the Report will, as provided in paragraph 21 of the amended proposals for the administration of British New Guinea, be forwarded to each of the contributing Colonies, the Government of which, I feel assured, cannot fail to note with equal satisfaction the importance, as well from a practical as from a

scientific standpoint, of the results which Sir William MacGregor's great personal energy, intrepidity, and administrative ability have already achieved in the Possession. BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BOYD D. MOREHEAD.

His Excellency
Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B.,
Governor.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889 with APPENDICES.

INDEX.

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	Declaration of Sovereignty and Commencement of Administration.	
1	Annual Report made under Royal Instructions - - -	11
2	Report from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889 - -	11
3	Preliminary work in Brisbane in August 1888 - - -	11
4	Assistance from Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G., and from Mr. R. J. Gray.	11
5	Conveyed to Port Moresby by H.M.S. "Opal," Captain Bosanquet. Sovereignty declared over British New Guinea, 4th September 1888.	11
6	Boundaries of the Possession - - - - - -	12
7	Letters Patent read and Oath of Office tendered to the Administrator by Captain Bosanquet.	12
	Legislation.	
8	Ordinance No. I. of 1888 prohibits supply of arms and intoxicants to natives. Number of arm permits issued during the year.	12
9	Ordinance No. II.—interest in native lands purchased by Government only.	13
10	Ordinance No. III. regulates the employment of native labourers -	13
11	Ordinance No. IV. adopts laws of Queensland and creates Courts -	14
12	Ordinance No. V. appropriates 9,725 16*s.* 8*d.* - - -	14
13	Ordinance No. VI. and VIII. of 1888 and No. III. of 1889 impose Customs dues.	14
14	Ordinance No. VII. of 1888 adopts Queensland Mining Laws with modifications.	15
15	Ordinance No. I. of 1889 brings the Central Court into operation -	15
16	Ordinance No. II. of 1889 regulates criminal procedure - -	16
	Administration of Justice.	
17	Courts, and business disposed of by them - - - -	16
	Administrative visits of Inspection.	
18	Visit to districts from Port Moresby to Kerepunu - - -	18
19	Proceed in H.M.S. "Swinger" to Sudest Island - - -	18
20	Sudest Island and mining there, in October 1888 - - -	18
21	Rossel Island, its physical features - - - - -	19
22	Inspection of Joannet Island - - - - -	19
23	Inspect St. Aignan Island - - - - - -	19
24	Inspect Normanby Island - - - - - -	19
25	Inspect Goulvain and Ferguson Islands - - - -	20
26	Hot Springs on Ferguson Island - - - - -	20
27	People of Ferguson and Normanby Islands - - -	21
28	Inspect part of Goodenough Island - - - -	21
29	Find remains of a "looted" vessel at Chads Bay - - -	21
30	Tribes implicated in attack on "Star of Peace" - - -	22
31	Social condition of tribes and nature of country - - -	22
32	Fail to capture the murderers by a night surprise - - -	23
33	Friendship of the Tauputu Tribe; they assist us - - -	24
34	Visit Bentley Bay; attacked by Huhuna Tribe - - -	24

Section.	Subject.	Page.
35	Two of the Tauputu volunteers killed	25
36	Isolate and humiliate the Abioma Tribe	25
37	Revisit Milne Bay in s.s. "Albatross"	26
38	Revisit Huhuna Tribe	26
39	Revisit the Chads Bay Tribe	27
40	Revisit Tauputu	27
41	Trial of those implicated in attack on "Star of Peace"	27
42	Visit Tubutubu Island	28
43	Visit Wari (Teste Island)	28
44	Cross from Milne Bay to Mullin's Harbour	28
45	Inspect Logea Island	29
46	Inspect Sariba Island	29
47	Visit London Missionary Society's station at Suav	29
48	Revisit Rigo and neighbouring districts	29
49	Visit to Manukoro district, arrest criminals	30
50	Inspect Kabadi and Doura districts	31
51	Inspection tour extending to the main range of the interior	31
52	Inspection of London Missionary Society's Schools at Port Moresby	31
	Government Property.	
53	Land at Port Moresby	32
54	Buildings at Port Moresby	32
55	Land and buildings at Samarai	32
56	Land at Doura, Wari, and Rigo	33
57	Stock—cattle and horses	33
58	Vessels	33
	Establishments.	
59	List of officers and their salaries	34
60	Coloured labourers employed by Government	34
61	Executive and Legislative Councils	35
	Trade.	
62	Imports	35
63	Exports—gold, pearl shell, trepang, timber, copra	35
64	Shipping	37
65	Postal returns	37
	Mission Work.	
66	Missions at work, the value of their services	37
67	The London Missionary Society in the Possession	38
68	Roman Catholic Mission	39
	The Land Question.	
69	Restrictions as to purchase; small area of Crown lands	39
70	The natives settled agriculturists with proprietary rights	40
71	Nature of the soil, generally, as far as seen	40
	Finance.	
72	Funds available for the service of the Government	41
73	Actual expenditure	41
74	Revenue collected, Treasurer's statements, Auditor's Certificate	42
	Sanitary.	
75	Possession healthy but for fever	42
76	Fever	42

Section.	Subject.	Page
	Scientific Results.	
77	General Geology	43
78	Birds	43
79	Reptiles	43
80	Botany	44
	Conclusion.	
81	Work of the Administration facilitated greatly by the Government of Queensland.	44
82	Efficiency of the local officers	44

APPENDICES.

Page.

A.—The Tariff - 46

B.—Professor Liversidge's report on water, &c., from Hot Springs, Ferguson Island. 46

C.—Resident Magistrate Hely's report on the Eastern Division - 49

D.—Inspection tour to the interior, with maps - 59

E.—Trade returns—Imports, exports, shipping, and postal - 87

F.—Geology reports by Mr. Jack and Mr. Clarke, Mr. Rands and Mr. Wilkinson. 93

G.—Birds, report on, by Mr. De Vis - 105

H.—Reptiles, report on, by Mr. De Vis - 116

Butterflies, report on, by Mr. Miskin - 117

Shells, report on, by Mr. Hedley - 124

I.—Botany, reports on, by Baron Sir Ferdinand Von Mueller, K.C.M.G., &c., &c. 125

J.—Auditor-General's Report - 128

MAPS.

Page.

1.—Map of part of South East New Guinea - 87

2.—The Owen Stanley Range from the top of Mount Knutsford - 87

3.—The Owen Stanley Range as seen from Jack's Rock - 87

4.—Peaks of Mount Victoria - 87

5.—The Owen Stanley Range as seen above the clouds by Mr. Cuthbertson - 87

Government House, Port Moresby,
November 18, 1889.

SIR,

PARAGRAPH XXXVI. of Royal Instructions directs that "the Administrator shall forward to the Governor, as soon as "may be possible after the close of each year, a full report of his "proceedings in the government of the Possession in matters of "legislation as well as in administration of public affairs." In compliance therewith I have the honour to respectfully submit the following Report to your Excellency.

2. A question arose as to when the period to be covered by the Annual Report should terminate, and, after due consideration of the matter, Sir Arthur Palmer directed that the year to be embraced in each report should end with the thirtieth day of June. The financial year of Queensland and British New Guinea closes on that date, which thus becomes the most convenient limit for the Annual Report. The Report now submitted extends accordingly from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889.

3. I arrived in Brisbane on the 4th of August of last year, and from that time until the 25th, when I sailed for New Guinea, I was busily engaged in business connected with the Possession. During my stay in Brisbane draft forms of proclamations and of certain Ordinances were drawn up and put before the Governor of Queensland for his consideration. In preparing and revising these Sir Charles Lilley, Chief Justice of Queensland, and the Honourable A. J. Thynne, Minister of Justice, most kindly and considerately gave every assistance in their power—a matter of much importance, as no person had then been appointed Judicial Officer of the Possession.

4. The Honourable John Douglas, C.M.G., Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for the Protected Territory in New Guinea, met me in Brisbane, and in the best public spirit enabled me to profit from his long experience of official business, and from his special knowledge of New Guinea affairs. Mr. Douglas accompanied me as far as Cooktown, and lost no opportunity of facilitating my task as far as he could.

It should also be put on record that I was laid under obligation to Mr. Robert J. Gray, then Under Colonial Secretary of Queensland, for valuable and willing assistance in arranging many important matters of detail connected with the initiation of the Administration.

5. His Excellency Rear-Admiral Fairfax, C.B., was good enough to provide me with a passage from Cooktown to Port Moresby in H.M.S. "Opal," commanded by Captain Bosanquet. We sailed from Cooktown 1st September, and arrived at Port Moresby in the forenoon of the 4th. Preparations were made at once for declaring, with such publicity and ceremonial as were practicable, the Queen's Sovereignty over the Possession. Arrangements connected therewith were carried out in a most satisfactory manner by Captain Bosanquet, who disposed of his officers and men in such a way as to make the proceedings impressive, and to give to the occasion all the importance possible under the circumstances.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

6. A proclamation was read by me declaring that the territory and islands set forth below thereby became part of the Queen's Dominions, namely:—"The southern and south-eastern shores of "New Guinea from the 141st meridian of east longitude eastward "as far as EastCape, and thence north-westward as far as the 8th "parallel of south latitude in the neighbourhood of Mitre Rock, "together with the territory lying south of a line from Mitre Rock "proceeding along the said 8th parallel to the 147th degree of "east longitude; then in a straight line in a north-westerly direction "to the point of intersection of the 6th parallel of south latitude and "of the 144th degree of east longitude, and continuing in a west-"north-westerly direction to the point of intersection of the 5th "parallel of south latitude, and of the 141st degree of east longitude, "together with the Trobriand, Woodlark, D'Entrecasteaux, and "Louisiade Groups of Islands, and all other islands lying between "the 8th and 12th parallels of south latitude and between the 141st "and 155th degrees of east longitude, and not forming part of the "Colony of Queensland; and furthermore including all islands and "reefs lying in the Gulf of Papua to the northward of the 8th "parallel of south latitude."

7. The Letters Patent were then read, and after the Royal standard had been hoisted at Government House, and saluted by the guns of H.M.S. "Opal," my Commission as Administrator was read and the necessary oaths of office tendered to me by Captain Bosanquet as the senior officer of Her Majesty's Service then present. The ceremony was concluded by the natives present singing "God Save the Queen."

Legislation.

8. During the year eleven Ordinances were passed by the Legislature of the Possession.

Ordinance No. 1. of 1888 prohibits supplying to natives in any manner firearms, ammunition, explosives, intoxicating liquor, or opium, under heavy penalties. It is also made illegal for natives to have these things in their possession. The Administrator may, however, give firearms to natives for self-defence, and may after inquiry grant permits in certain cases to natives to use firearms for ordinary purposes. Intoxicating liquor and opium may be given medicinally in cases of necessity, the burden of proving the existence of such necessity resting on the person that gives the liquor or opium to the native in question.

Under this Ordinance permits were issued to natives—the word in this law including all persons not of European descent—as under:—

Papuans	18
Polynesians	14
Chinese	3
Malays	7
Others (teachers)	36
	78

Of this total of 78 no fewer than 45 were issued to members of the London Missionary Society, firearms being a matter of much importance to them in procuring food.

The Ordinance appears to have been effective in its prohibitory clauses, and it may be accepted as a fact that arms, ammunition, and intoxicants are practically not supplied to, nor possessed by, natives.

9. Ordinance No. II. of 1888 prohibits any person from purchasing land, or any interest in land, from any native. Natives are also forbidden to sell land or any interest therein, and any such transaction is further declared null and void. The Administrator may, however, purchase land in the public interest, after he has satisfied himself that the land is not required, or likely to be required, for native use. No instance of a violation of this law has come under the notice of the Courts.

10. Ordinance III. of 1888 was passed to prevent the removal of the aboriginal natives of the Possession from their own districts. What constitutes a district may from time to time be fixed or altered by the Executive; but if any native lives in a place not included in a district as above, the district of such native is held to be within a radius of ten miles from his ordinary place of residence. To not impede the industrial employment of natives by traders and settlers, permits may be granted to employers having natives from other districts in their service before the passing of the Ordinance. Natives may also be engaged before a magistrate to serve on board any boat or vessel at all places within the boundaries of the Possession. They may further be removed from their own district to any other district in the Possession for the purposes of education, or the advancement of religious teaching. They may also be freely engaged in any capacity in connexion with Her Majesty's Government in British New Guinea. The Administration has had little to contend with under this Ordinance. One case only of the removal of a native or natives beyond the boundaries of the Possession has come under notice, and that case has not yet been judicially investigated, as it is alleged to have occurred at a place not yet visited by the Administrator or by a judicial officer. Speaking generally, the natives employed by Europeans are well treated, many of them indulgently so. The Resident Magistrate of the Eastern District, however, reports a disposition on the part of certain traders to under-pay their native labourers. These cases are exceptional, and no instance of ill-usage has been reported to the Government. The time is probably not far distant when restrictions may no longer be necessary as to the removal of a native from one district to another within the Possession. One of the great difficulties the Administration has to overcome is the domestic exclusiveness of the different tribes, coterminous communities being often strangers to each other. This will to some extent begin to be remedied when it is found safe to allow natives to be freely removed for employment to or from any place within the boundaries of the Possession.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

11. Ordinance IV. of 1888 was passed to adopt the laws of Queensland as the laws of British New Guinea, in so far as the same are applicable to the circumstances of the Possession, and not repugnant to any provision in its constitution. It also provides for the establishment of courts of justice. From this general adoption of the laws in force in Queensland certain exceptions are specified, chiefly having reference to the constitution, judicature, Supreme or District Courts, fiscal matters, real property, municipalities, schools and churches, trial by jury, and mining. Courts of Petty Sessions are established under this Ordinance. Each such court is presided over by a resident magistrate having the jurisdiction of a police magistrate in Queensland. The practice and procedure in the Courts of Petty Sessions are in all matters governed by the Justices Act of Queensland. Under the same enactment a Court of Record, called "the Central Court," has been created, having in its criminal jurisdiction cognizance and jurisdiction of and over all crimes and offences against the law; and in civil cases having a like jurisdiction as the Supreme Court of Queensland. Under an Order of the Queen in Council, dated 17th May 1888, an appeal lies in civil matters from any court in British New Guinea to the Supreme Court of Queensland if the value or amount in dispute exceeds 100*l.* And in criminal cases where any person has been sentenced by a court in the Possession to a sentence which exceeds three months' imprisonment, such person may appeal to the Supreme Court of Queensland at Brisbane. "Rules of the Supreme Court (Crown Side, British New "Guinea appeals), 1888," were prepared by the Chief Justice and his colleagues, and came into operation on the 6th November 1888. Under this Ordinance all causes are heard and dealt with in the Central Court by the Chief Magistrate sitting alone, and without the aid of jurors or assessors. The question of the advantage or otherwise of trial by jury or assessors does not in this case arise, as the constitution of the court had to be determined by the fact that neither jurors nor assessors were procurable in the Possession. So far, the courts established have been found to work well, and they have certainly made a promising commencement in the administration of justice and in laying the foundation of law and order.

12. Ordinance No. V. of 1888 appropriated a sum not exceeding 9,725*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* to the service of the Possession from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889 inclusive.

13. Ordinances Nos. VI. and VIII. of 1888 and No. III. of 1889 may be conveniently considered together. No. VI., passed 19th September, provided that on all articles imported into the Possession, customs dues should be collected and paid at the same rates as in Queensland. This law was enacted under urgent circumstances. A large influx of Europeans was imminent at the moment, and it was felt that they should contribute something towards the public revenue. It was also desirable that some restraint, such as that imposed by the Customs Act, should be put on vessels coming to the Colony with numbers of prospectors,

traders, explorers, &c. There was, when the measure was passed, neither time nor opportunity to prepare a tariff suited to the circumstances of the country.

No. VIII. became law to abolish the heavy protective dues in force under the Queensland tariff on biscuits, salt, and tinned meats—necessary articles of import as food for miners, traders, and settlers alike. The duty on these was respectively 2*d.* and 4*d.* a pound. As it was found that the duty of 3*s.* a pound on tobacco would seriously interfere with the trade springing up with the natives, the duty on trade tobacco was at the same time lowered to 1*s.* a pound, and a uniform duty of ten per centum *ad valorem* was put on edge tools.

Ordinance No. III. of 1889 was prepared as soon as it was possible to obtain data to enable one to draw up a tariff adapted to the requirements of the Possession. As the country possesses no manufactures of any kind, the question of protective dues did not arise. The object in view was to obtain from natives and Europeans such contributions towards public revenue as could fairly be paid without unduly pressing on any trade or industry established in the Possession. Light dues were therefore imposed. It was also felt that in proportion as dues might be heavy, temptation to smuggling would be great, and illicit trade could not easily have been prevented by such a small staff on such an extensive coast line. It appeared, therefore, on financial grounds profitable to avoid heavy rates. With the approval of Sir Arthur Palmer, previously obtained, the measure became law on 19th April last. This tariff exempts from duty the articles that may be considered the bare necessaries of life, machinery of all kinds, building materials, all important marine stores, and all articles likely to be imported into the Possession in transit from neighbouring countries or islands. On the majority of articles there is levied an *ad valorem* duty at the rate of ten per cent., and the duty collected on other articles bears something like a fair ratio to this *ad valorem* rate. No complaints have been made to Government with regard to this tariff, and there is no reason to believe that the payment of duty under it has been evaded to any considerable degree. (The tariff will be found as Appendix A. at page 46.)

14. Ordinance No. VII. of 1888 adopts the Gold Mining Acts, together with regulations issued thereunder, but with certain modifications. This Ordinance was rendered necessary by the considerable influx of miners that took place into the Louisiade Islands in August and September of last year. The Ordinance gives power to the Executive to limit to specified districts the application of the Queensland mining laws. Regulations can also be issued under it for the protection of the rights of the aboriginal inhabitants. Under this Ordinance no reward is offered or paid by the Government for the discovery of gold or of a new goldfield.

15. Ordinance No. I. of 1889 was passed to bring into force the suspended clauses of Ordinance No. IV., having reference to the

establishment of the Central Court. It was found to be of much advantage to the public service to utilise otherwise the time that would have been required to proceed from Samarai to Port Moresby, to issue the Proclamation required under Section XIV. of Ordinance No. IV. to make the clauses in question law. The suspending clause was added to the Ordinance because at the time it was passed the Chief Judicial Officer had not arrived in the Possession.

16. Ordinance No. II. of 1889 is a measure of great importance, as it regulates criminal procedure in the Central Court. Its principal points are as follows :—Sessions may be held at any time and in any place in the Possession. Indictable offences are first investigated by a Resident Magistrate, who, if the accused is committed for trial in the Central Court, forwards to that Court the original depositions in the case. All crimes and offences of which the Court can take cognizance are prosecuted by charge under the seal of the Court, which is made to have the same validity as an indictment would have in England. Different felonies or misdemeanors may be included in the same charge if they relate to one injured person or to one transaction. When a case has been committed for trial in the Central Court, that Court may quash the committal, refer it back to the Committing Magistrate, or lay or direct to be laid against the accused any charge that the evidence appears to warrant. The Central Court may at any time be relieved of the above duties in so far as they would, under ordinary circumstances, be performed by a Crown Prosecutor. Trials before the Central Court are by the Chief Magistrate sitting alone. All proceedings in the Court are conducted in or interpreted into English. The examination of any witness taken and attested by a magistrate in the presence of an accused person may be given in evidence before the Central Court if the witness is dead or his attendance cannot be procured; and the declaration of a deceased person may, subject to the discretion of the Court, be received in evidence if the deceased believed, when making the declaration, that he was in danger but still entertained hopes of recovery. The Administrator may prescribe the time and place where any sentence of death shall be carried out; as also the place and manner in which effect shall be given to a sentence to penal servitude or imprisonment by any Criminal Court. Any person tried by the Central Court may have his case conducted by some other person, but that person cannot give evidence in the case. The Ordinance has a retrospective effect in so far that any person already committed for trial at the time the Ordinance was passed shall be deemed to be duly committed for trial before the Central Court.

Administration of Justice.

17. Two Resident Magistrates were appointed, the headquarters of which were respectively at Samarai and Port Moresby

The creation of the Court of Petty Sessions at Port Moresby dates from the 22nd September; that of the similar court at Samarai from the 21st October 1888.

The Central Court came into existence on the 8th January 1889.

There were no appeals to the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Cases disposed of by the Courts are set forth below:—

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY IN PORT MORESBY AND SAMARAI FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1889.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Business.

The Central Court held Four Criminal Sessions at the Places and Times, and with the Results, undermentioned:—

No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		SAMARAI—18th January 1889.	
11	(1) Count, murder. (2) count, robbery in ship.	4 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of robbery in ship, 1 acquitted.	4, death; 1, 18 months imprisonment; 5, 12 months' imprisonment.
		KEREPUNU—16th May 1889.	
1	Murder - - -	Guilty manslaughter -	1 day's imprisonment.
		PORT MORESBY—31st May 1889.	
3	Murder - - -	Guilty - - - -	Death.
		AROMA—15th June 1889.	
1	Murder - - -	Guilty manslaughter -	6 months' imprisonment.
Total - 16			

CIVIL BUSINESS.

Nil.

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.			Summary Offences Jurisdiction.				Civil Jurisdiction.
District of Court.	No. of Persons charged.	Result of Inquiry.	District of Court.	No. of Persons tried.	Offence charged.	Result of Trial.	—
Port Moresby	5	Committed for trial.	Port Moresby	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Samarai -	11	Committed for trial.	Samarai	2	Supplying liquor to natives.	Guilty	Nil.
	—			1	Assault -	Guilty	Nil.
	Total 16						

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES TRIED.

In Central Court - - - - - - - -	16
In lower Courts - - - - - - - -	3
In all Courts - - - - - - - -	19

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Administrative Visits of Inspection.

18. The first visit of inspection was to the country lying between Port Moresby and Kerepunu, and took place between the 21st and 27th September 1888. It was estimated there that the area of the districts that came under notice was about 1,000 square miles, and the population was roughly calculated at 13,500. The natives are dispersed in numerous small centres, their position being generally determined by the quality of the land. This part of the country consists of low rounded water-worn hills, covered by scrub or by stunted eucalyptus and grass. With the exception of small patches here and there the land fit for cultivation is in possession of the natives. They all live in villages and derive their food from their own planting lands, but they also fish and hunt, although the chase only yields them a few wallaby and an occasional wild pig. The tribes were found to be jealous of each other, and there was some difficulty in maintaining peace between several of them. Houses, as a rule, were comfortable, all built on piles; and the population seemed to be free from endemic disease unless they suffer from fever, but no native was seen there ill of that disease. Five stations of the London Missionary Society were visited in this inspection, and a high estimate was formed of the value of their labours amongst a people not readily susceptible to religious teaching.

19. Leaving Kerepunu on 27th September, we reached Samarai by the Government schooner "Hygeia" 1st October. There I received a telegram from the Governor of Queensland which seemed to require me to proceed at once to Sudest Island; Captain Allan, of H.M.S. "Swinger," who had brought the telegram, was good enough to convey me to Sudest accordingly. Starting from Samarai the same day, Sudest was reached 4th October.

20. At that time there were about 130 miners on Sudest Island, but by the time we left that for Rossel Island, 8th October, the number had been increased to about 200. The formation of the island was found to be schistose. The miners were at work exclusively in "fossicking" the creeks; but as there was a great tendency to run over the ground and waste it, the mining laws of Queensland were brought into force in Sudest, and a justice of the peace, with the powers of a gold warden, was appointed. It was found that native rights and property were not prejudiced by the operations of the miners, and that no serious disputes had arisen either amongst the miners themselves or between them and the natives. The island is thinly populated and does not contain much land fit for profitable cultivation.

As it was certain that the more restless of the miners would not long confine their attention to Sudest Island, which would, moreover, before long be practically worked out if the large numbers of men then expected should arrive, it was arranged that the Government schooner should proceed to some of the neighbouring islands, and prepare the natives for visits from the miners by taking a prospecting party in the vessel. Twenty-one men selected

by the miners themselves were taken on board, and we proceeded to Rossel Island, the schooner, by the kindness of Captain Allan, being towed there by H.M.S. "Swinger."

21. From the 10th to the 16th October we were at work travelling over or examining the island. The formation is schistose, similar to that of Sudest. The miners found traces of gold at several places, but not, as they thought, in quantity to justify their remaining there. Rossel Island is mountainous and completely covered by forest. Its area was estimated at about 250 square miles, and its population at about 1,000 to 1,200 ; but both estimates are pure guesswork. Relations were established with only a few of the natives on the north-east side of the island, although in crossing and recrossing it we made every endeavour to get into communication with them. This is all the more to be regretted, because Rossel Island bears an evil reputation ever since the wreck of the "St. Paul" there in 1858, in connexion with which it is said 326 Chinese, in addition to some of the crew, were killed and eaten by the inhabitants in about two months. A most dangerous-looking reef, well seen by us, runs out to sea several miles beyond Adele Island in a south-easterly direction, on which probably many ships have been wrecked. Articles that had been procured from vessels stranded on this coast were only too numerous in the villages we passed through. It is on this account extremely desirable that these people be brought under our influence as soon as possible. Vegetation is very rich in Rossel Island, and it possesses many trees rich in gum-resin. It will probably never be of value for agricultural purposes.

22. On our return to Sudest from Rossel Island the number of prospectors accompanying the schooner was reduced to 12. We made a halt at Joannet Island, 19th October, a few miles from Sudest. It contains an area of about 25 square miles, and some three or four small small villages. Doubtful colours of gold were found by the prospecting party. The island does not seem to possess much value for any purpose. The formation is schistose; the population poor and scanty.

23. On the 20th we reached the Island of St. Aignan, and remained there until the 24th. This island contains about 100 square miles. It is, taking into account the rough and mountainous nature of the country, fully inhabited. The natives are industrious cultivators of the soil. The general formation of the island is similar to that of Sudest, but there are, at places, great masses of limestone and conglomerate. Rough colours of gold were found at several places, and shortly afterwards some of the prospectors returned to this island and opened up a goldfield on which there have been as many as 400 miners employed at one time. The native population is probably not less than about 3,000 in number. The natives appeared to be healthy and to live comfortably. Like all their neighbours, they are strangers to missionary work.

24. On the 24th October we reached the east end of the Island of Normanby. It is mountainous, the highest summit being from

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

3,000 to 3,500 feet above the sea, and it is covered by forest except where the ground has been cleared for planting purposes. The general formation is schistose, and colours of gold were found by the prospectors at more than one place in the south-east end. That part of the island is so thickly peopled that in one day, accompanied by Mr. B. H. Thomson, my private secretary, I visited 31 villages that would have averaged from 7 to 10 houses each. These were on rolling country, on an area of 12 to 15 square miles, which maintains a population of probably about 1,500 souls. Cultivation is carried on in a careful and laborious manner by the people, they being entirely dependent on it for the means of existence. Their great love of showy plants was also noticeable. The northerly portions of the island are more steep and mountainous, and the natives at most places touched were exceedingly wild and difficult to deal with, more especially about the central parts of the island. The total population is probably about 5,000, and the area of the whole island perhaps about 350 square miles. Normanby Island is unfit for European cultivation, and its planting lands seem to be required for its own settled population. They are a healthy, active people, and appear to be, for such a race, industrious.

25. On the 31st October we passed Goulvain Island at the eastern entrance to Dawson Strait. Goulvain Island may be from four to five square miles in area. It is an extinct crater, one side of which is still intact. It is in great part covered by cocoanut trees; the population is probably not under 1,000. They are closely connected with the natives on the nearest coast of Ferguson Island. That part of the latter island that forms the north-east end of Dawson Strait is, like Goulvain Island, of volcanic origin, and possesses there an extinct crater and boiling springs. It is thickly peopled by a community that exhibit admirable skill and patience in cultivating the soil, which, although it does not look heavy or rich, still is remarkably fruitful. Unfortunately no interpreter could be found on this island, so that communication with the natives was very difficult. Anchorages were found at several places between the east end of Dawson Strait and Seymour Bay, the last place at which we made a halt on Ferguson Island. We spent altogether nine days in its examination. At several places the natives showed a decided disinclination to have anything to do with us, and frequently obstructed the paths to prevent our advance into the country. Although they looked very warlike they never, however, actually proceeded so far as to break the peace; but they gave us at several places the impression of being quite untrustworthy. This island contains three great mountain masses, the highest about 6,000 feet above sea level. These appear to be of schistose formation. No trace of gold was found. The total area is probably about 500 square miles, and the population perhaps 5,000 to 6,000.

26. Search was made by one party at that part of the island called Cape La Billardière for the hot springs marked on the Admiralty Charts, but they could not be found. Some of those

in search said, however, that they found what appeared to be traces of their previous existence. Some years ago Mr. Andrew Goldie visited this part of the coast and found some hot springs in activity; but in the absence of the chart of his route their exact locality cannot at present be specified. It was found by us, however, that the whole of the low country near Seymour Bay contains here and there over an area of, perhaps, eight or ten square miles, boiling springs, saline lakes, and thousands of fumeroles giving out sulphur fumes. Water from these springs and lakes has been kindly examined by Professor Liversidge of Sydney University, whose report will be found in Appendix B. hereto (page 46).

27. On Ferguson Island, as on Normanby Island, the neighbouring tribes have, as a rule, little or no communication with each other, but seemed to live confined, each community to their own territory. The missionary is as yet, unfortunately, quite unknown to them. From their active and industrious habits they may become good trade customers, as the bartering instinct seemed to be strongly developed in those that had previously been brought into contact with the white man.

28. The 8th and 9th of November were devoted to an examination of the part of the Island of Goodenough that lies near Moresby Strait. Here we came into contact with a people of a character strikingly different from those met with in the neighbouring islands. They were quiet, friendly, and undemonstrative, although physically they resembled their neighbours. They occupy fully all the cultivatable land in the district, and to procure sufficient planting ground they have to terrace many of the slopes, a work which is carried out with much labour and skill, the banks being faced by stone walls. The formation near to Moresby Straits is volcanic, but further north and inland it becomes schistose. Colours of gold were found by the prospectors. On the rich flat land between the great mountain range forming the central mass of this island, and the sea, there are very large villages, one visited by us containing 109 houses. No interpreter could be found on the part of the island inspected by us. The villages of probably 1,500 people in all were entered on this island. Unfortunately time did not allow the greater portion of this very interesting country to be visited by us then.

29. On the 14th November, when coasting on the mainland towards Samarai, the remains of a wreck were seen by us in Chads Bay in longitude 150° 32′ and latitude 10° 14′. Mr. Thomson, private secretary, examined the wreck and was of opinion the vessel had been burned. It appeared very suspicious that although this part of the coast was thickly inhabited no natives, except a single individual, who appeared to be posted as a sentinel, were to be seen. Next morning the natives near East Cape came off and reported that quite recently the natives of Chads Bay had attacked a schooner killed the master and crew, and looted the vessel. On arriving at Samarai this news was confirmed, except that it was found that

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

only the master, Captain Ansell, had actually been murdered, his two native boys having made their escape, one grievously wounded. Mr. Hely, Resident Magistrate for the District, had gone to Milne Bay on 1st November, kindly taken there by Captain Mann on H.M.S. "Rapid," but failed to reach the scene of the disaster from that point, and had to return to Samarai. A few days later Mr. Robinson, part owner of the vessel destroyed, which was named the "Star of Peace," and was a trading ketch of about 18 tons, went to Chads Bay to try to save any property he could secure. He was fired on by the natives from arms they had taken from the ketch, consisting of a Martini-Henry rifle, two shot guns, and two revolvers, with a considerable quantity of ammunition for each weapon. On the 9th November Mr. Hely went to Chads Bay in H.M.S. "Rapid," and had, with assistance given by Captain Mann, the body of Ansell disinterred and buried at sea, so that his remains should not be used as a trophy by his murderers.

30. From 18th November to 2nd February I was detained in the east end of the Possession, principally occupied in business concerning or arising from the Ansell murder. It was found that the crime was a deliberately planned murder, carried out in a most savage and cruel manner. The reasons afterwards given by different natives as having led up to it were diverse; some said it was to avenge the death of a native or natives taken to Queensland as labourers and who had died there; some said it was a protest against the preaching of the mission; and others declared it was merely to obtain plunder. It is not unlikely that certain people had a grievance on account of the death of natives in Queensland, and that others had been disappointed in not obtaining from the mission all they wanted; but there can hardly be any doubt that the desire for plunder was the real cause of the attack on the schooner. As the murder of peaceful and industrious traders in that part of the group had become a matter of frequent occurrence, it was determined to deal with this case in a way that should serve as a warning to natives in future. This was all the more necessary as the inhabitants of a very large area were implicated directly or indirectly in this murder and robbery, and natives had come to think that such crimes could be committed with impunity, knowing well that they could not be reached by a ship of war. With the exception of the two tribes of Mita and Lillihudi in Milne Bay, there was probably no community from Waga Waga, on the southern side of Milne Bay, to Tauputa, north of Chads Bay, that did not sympathise with the murderers and receive some share of the pillage. This embraced a population probably not short of 10,000 people.

31. The country concerned consists of a mountain range running nearly east and west, forming the north side of the deep and important Milne Bay. Its summits rise to 3,000 or 4,000 feet. The formation is chiefly basaltic. Between the foot of the mountain range and the sea there is some rolling or flat land, with here and there sandy plateaux, this being in greater quantity on

the northern side, where its maximum breadth, two or three miles, as at Ansell Peninsula, is met with. All along this lower land there are numerous populous villages. They are divided into federated communities of nearly equal strength. It was found that most of them could turn out 80 or 100 spear-men, and several of them were supposed to number about 1,000 people all told. It is not easy in some cases to find out what village of the community could be considered the metropolis, or what man in a given village could be regarded as its leading inhabitant. Two men, however, were found, Yakoba of Mita, in Milne Bay, and Komodoa of Polatona, in Bentley Bay, who exercised a decided controlling influence over their tribesmen; and as they were on the side of the Government they gained still greater influence, and acquired considerable weight even among their neighbours. The Milne Bay side of the range is wet and fertile, and produces large quantities of native food and cocoanuts; the north side also grows rich fringes of cocoanut trees at many places near the beach, but the soil is not so good for cultivation as on the south side. The country is fully peopled if not indeed over-populated. No houses are built there over the sea, but all stand on piles. One native missionary is stationed on the Milne Bay side at Killerton Island, a young man of great activity, earnest in his work, and very intelligent, trained at Port Moresby. There were in the bay nearly half a score of men, the most important one being Yakoba of Mita, who had learned something of religion from the teachers of the London Missionary Society at different times, who held occasional religious meetings; and on the north side in Bentley Bay, Komodoa was endeavouring to introduce some knowledge of Christianity. But it was quite plain that missionary work was not appreciated by these people, and that the mass looked on it with indifference, not a few with contempt and dislike.

32. As soon as it was ascertained that the inhabitants of the large village Auwaiama, near to which the ketch was attacked, were those that took the most active part in the crime, it was determined to try to secure some of them by a night surprise. Accordingly on 18th November my party went on board the schooner "Hygeia," consisting of my staff, Mr. Hely, Resident Magistrate, Mr. A. E. English, and 12 miners who volunteered to accompany us as special constables. They were—G. L. Burke, C. W. Morgan, P. Horwood, G. Mackay, P. Carlson, W. Winstone, A. Keith, J. Ferguson, J. Newell, J. Swanson, W. Bowles, and J. Palmer. Captain Colin Thomson carried out his instructions with his usual ability. Taking us away towards the coast of Normanby Island until dark, and then changing his course, he landed us silently in boats at the native village in Chads Bay at 3 a.m. The place was carefully surrounded, but no capture was made. Similar efforts were equally without result in respect of some of the near neighbouring villages. Some 15 or 20 villages were visited by us, but the inhabitants had all fled to the "bush." Everywhere there were found articles that had been taken out of

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

the ketch. Next day the "Hygeia" returned the miners to Samarai.

33. The small party now left behind went into the bush in the principal Chads Bay village, thinking some natives would return on seeing the schooner leave. Some three or four men and a woman soon appeared; the latter was captured and gave us much useful information; but it was soon apparent that we were no match for the Papuan at running in the "bush." We were joined on the 22nd by Captain Baden-Powell, who strengthened the party during our further operations until we returned to Samarai. We occupied the whole of the Ansell Peninsula, some part of which, or of the mountain range near, was searched every day, and the natives were kept out of their villages. It was no part of our plan to burn the houses of the natives, but it was found on the morning of the 20th that a large village had been burned on the 19th. There was reason to believe that this had been done by some of my party, although a distinct violation of repeated orders. On the 24th approaches were made to the Tauputa tribe, the first community north of Chads Bay, and after much trouble their friendship was secured, and they promised to assist us and to be unfriendly with the Chads Bay people, with whom they had standing hostilities. Next day they came to us 150 or 200 strong, but they were more intent on obtaining spoil than prisoners. But during the same day two young men concerned directly in the attack on the ketch were secured, and possession was obtained of the Martini-Henri rifle they took from the vessel.

34. On the 28th the "Hygeia" was anchored in Bentley Bay, the chief object of which was to establish friendly relations with the natives there, so as to isolate the Chads Bay people on that side. There were three different tribes on that end of the bay—one, that of Kidara, the furthest east of the three, expressed a desire for peace with us; another, the Huhuna tribe, declared they wished to fight us. As it appeared we had already on hand as much as, if not more than, we could cope with in the Chads Bay people, every endeavour was made to conciliate Huhuna; and this was successful so far that Mr. Hely and Mr. English induced two of them to come on board the schooner. From these it was learned that the chief of Huhuna was one of the principal advisers in the attack on the ketch, and that a man named Yakopa was living in the village who had been rewarded for his share in the transaction by receiving amongst other things a gun and a case of tobacco. This explained the hostility of Huhuna; and orders were given at once to a party to land and arrest Yakopa, for whom a warrant had been issued. They consisted, myself included, of eight Europeans and five natives. About 40 or 50 men met us on the beach partially in war paint, having large quantities of spears leaning against the trees or bushes immediately at hand. After a little time Yakopa was seen and identified, and he was pluckily arrested by Mr. English in the village, with the gun in

his hand. Mr. Thomson, private secretary, promptly aided Mr. English and got Yakopa put in irons. The Hunhuna men had generally dispersed as my party, except four who remained in charge of the boat, had gone to look for the man wanted. Yakopa struggled violently as he was conducted to the boat, shouted what appeared to be the war-cry of his tribe, and brought down on us the whole of his clansmen, who made for us at full speed, spear in hand. It was perfectly plain that my party must defend themselves or be slaughtered on the spot. I accordingly ordered them to fire on the assailants. So persistent were they in the attack that three or four were killed and two or three times as many wounded before they could be driven off. Seven or eight of the party fired on the aggressors, who for a moment put us in some danger as at one spot they got within spear distance. In the *melée* the prisoner escaped, and was shot down before he reached cover.

The same evening the Polatona tribe, the third and most westerly one at this end of Bentley Bay, proffered friendship and asked for peace, which was promised on condition that they rendered active assistance in securing Ansell's murderers. They remained faithful to their engagements and gave us most valuable assistance.

35. Several prisoners were arrested in the course of the next few days, but there were still three of the men at large that had struck Ansell. It was known that one of them dodged us frequently in the bush on Ansell Peninsula, and that a second was in the mountains near, while the third was in Milne Bay. An unfortunate effort was made to secure the nearest one by means of the Tauputa tribe. They came in force sufficient to search the whole of Ansell Peninsula, but as one of the three men had been secured the previous day, and a large force had to be detached to bring him in, a guard could not be sent to protect the Tauputa men, who were supposed to number ten to one of those they were in search of. They had hardly been gone an hour when two of them were speared, after which the rest were of no further use. The remainder of the arms from the ketch were brought into camp the same day by the Polatona people.

36. There now remained on the north side of the range only one man whom we wished to arrest, and the natives there were either friendly or humiliated. Hostile messages were frequently received, however, from the warlike and numerous Abioma tribe in Milne Bay, who boasted that they were sheltering one of the murderers, and would kill myself if any attempt was made to arrest him. The further search for the man at large on the north side of the range was committed to Komodoa, Chief of Polatona, and messages were continually sent to the Chads Bay people that they would be allowed to return to their villages if they delivered up the one murderer sheltered among them. On the 11th December we went in the "Hygeia" to Milne Bay. The first task was to secure the friendship of those tribes occupying the north side of the bay and lying easterly from Abioma. Three or four days were

British New Guinea.

spent in effecting this. From one of these tribes, Mita, that nearest to Abioma, we received promises of active and staunch support when the moment should come that it was wanted against Abioma.

On the 15th we sailed past Abioma to the tribe on their west side. This community was divided in sentiment; one half remained neutral and the other half declared for the Government. The tribes further east round the head of the bay, and up its south side, were visited, and their friendship or co-operation secured. While this process of isolation was being perfected, Abioma remained as proud as ever, and continued to send insulting and threatening messages. On the 18th December, when all was ready, we went in two boats to Abioma, to arrest on warrant the man in question. Every available individual had taken his place in this force, which numbered altogether 19, carrying 13 Winchester, one Martini-Henry, and five Snider, rifles. About 12 to 15 of these men could be relied on with confidence. But Abioma, now entirely isolated, was intimidated, disavowed any wish to fight, and submitted to much humiliation. Peace was promised them if they would deliver up Hannewanna, the man they were sheltering. They promised to do so, and sent out parties to look for him and bring him in. It was quite evident, however, that no effort was made to capture him, and that they were only trifling. Some of their chiefs were taken involuntarily on board the schooner, and they and their people were informed plainly that they would be detained until Hannewanna was made prisoner. They were removed to Samarai and kept there until he was captured and lodged there.

37. On the 11th January the last of the principals concerned in the murder of Captain Ansell and the sacking of his vessel was safely deposited in gaol at Samarai. It was deemed of great importance that these unfortunate men should be tried at Samarai, and that the trial should be witnessed by as many of the leading natives of this part of the Possession as could be got together. Sir Arthur Palmer and Mr. Morehead had, with great consideration, sent over to British New Guinea the Queensland Government steamer "Albatross" with supplies, and to be for a short time employed by the local Government during the continuance of the somewhat difficult circumstances in which it was then placed. In this vessel I proceeded with my staff and the Resident Magistrate of the district, Mr. B. A. Hely, first to Milne Bay. The Abioma chiefs were restored to their people on the 13th, and there was every reason for satisfaction with them and with their district generally. The principal chiefs of Milne Bay were taken on board the steamer to proceed to Samarai.

38. Frequent efforts had been made to resettle the Chads Bay people in their homes, but they had declined to take up their fixed abodes in their old villages unless the "Kovana" himself—the title by which the Administrator is known among the natives—would visit them in person and assure them that bygones were to be forgotten. They had been informed that their wish would be

gratified, that they would be visited, and in a way that would cause them no alarm or anxiety. I accordingly left the steamer in Milne Bay and crossed the range with one European attendant and some natives. Our path took us into the village of Huhuna, where we were received in a quiet and friendly manner. One of the first to salute us was the widow of the chief who gallantly led the attack on us and was the first to fall. A meeting was arranged with the tribe for next morning, to be held at the spot where we had shortly before come into collision. The greater part of the tribe met us there that morning, and the new order of things was explained to them, and counsel given them as to future conduct. They expressed deep regret for their folly in attacking us, but excused themselves by saying they did not know how powerful we were.

39. On the 14th January, accompanied by Komodoa and Mr. English, I landed at the east side of Ansell Peninsula and walked across it to Chads Bay, to the spot that had been appointed a rendezvous there (the village of Auwaiama). Had we proceeded with arms in our hands the probability is that the natives would not have approached us. At first we were joined by only a few, but shouts were exchanged between those that met us at the landing point and others in the "bush" all the way across the peninsula, a distance of three or four miles, and some hour or two after we reached Chads Bay they had assembled to the number of two or three hundred. The attack on Ansell and the ketch was described in detail, and the people assembled were directed to take possession of their houses at once, which they promised to do, and to listen to the teaching and preaching of Komodoa.

40. It was intended to proceed in the steamer up the coast to the Tauputa tribe, to intimate to them that peace had been established, and to instruct them as to their future behaviour; and this was also spontaneously suggested to us by the people of Chads Bay, who naïvely added, "They kill and eat us, and we kill and eat them," and they insisted on the fact that their conduct could not be considered good in future unless this was put a stop to. Komodoa went on board the steamer at Chads Bay. We went thence to Tauputa, and explained to the tribe there that henceforth they must live at peace with their neighbours. The steamer went thence, calling at certain places on the way, to Wari (Teste Island), the principal chief of which, with his son, accompanied us to Samarai.

41. On the 18th January 11 persons were, in connexion with the above case in the Central Court sitting at Samarai, put on trial for murder and stealing in a ship. Of these four were sentenced to capital punishment, five to imprisonment for 12 months, one to imprisonment for 18 months, and one was acquitted. A large number of natives were present, and the chiefs who were there followed the proceedings with deep interest. In view of all the circumstances of the case, the deliberate way in which a cruel and unprovoked murder was carried out, the vessel sacked, one boy injured so severely that for some time his recovery was all but

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

despaired of; in consideration of the fact that the natives knew perfectly well that to murder a white man was to commit a grievous wrong, but thought it could be done with impunity; and bearing in mind that crimes of this kind had been of notoriously frequent occurrence in the eastern end of the Possession, I did not feel justified in taking the responsibility of extending to these men, proof against each being clear, the prerogative of mercy. This course commended itself as being in the end the most merciful to the natives themselves, who could not be deterred from similar crime in future except by the exercise of rigid justice in some such case as this. One prisoner was accordingly executed at Samarai, 28th January; one at Abioma, in Milne Bay, on the 29th; and two at Chads Bay on the 30th. The natives assembled at each place in large numbers, and behaved with perfect propriety. There has been every reason to be satisfied with the profound impression produced on the native mind by the action of the Government in dealing with these cases. The success of the undertaking is due to those who, at no inconsiderable personal risk and with great fatigue and exposure, rendered such active service on the occasion, more especially Mr. B. H. Thomson, Mr. Hely, Mr. English, Mr. Craig, and Captain Baden-Powell. The occurrence forms the turning-point in native affairs in the east end, as may be seen by reading Mr. Hely's report on his district. [Appendix C. hereto, page 49.]

42. On the 16th January a visit of inspection was made to Tubutubu, an island in the Engineer group. There are about 300 people on the island, which does not appear capable of supporting so many; but they are great traders, possessing a number of fine sea-going canoes built at Murva (Woodlarks). They have no missionary, but a boy from this island is at school at Wari. They complained of the abduction of several women by traders, but there was strong reason for believing that the friends and relations of the women had given them away for payment. The formation of the island is basaltic.

43. From Tubutubu we proceeded to Bonarna (Glenton Island) principally to inquire into an alleged case of assault committed by a Fijian half-caste on a native. This matter was subsequently judicially dealt with on the spot by the Resident Magistrate, and a fine imposed on the offender. A short stay was made at Wari, when there was an opportunity of seeing and hearing the scholars of the London Missionary Society's representative there. Five boys and four girls read fluently in the South Cape language. This island is apparently overpeopled, but the inhabitants are active traders, and procure much food from other islands.

44. On January 22nd we left Samarai in the "Albatross" and went the same day as far as Maivara, at the head of Milne Bay. Our object was to cross thence to Mullin's Harbour to ascertain whether there was any waterway between them. Some of the crew of the "Albatross" accompanied us as volunteers. The road was found to be easy, the whole journey out and back occupying only four days. Many small native villages were met with, all

the inhabitants of which were friendly. The country does not—except along the Sagarai River, which falls into the head of Mullin's Harbour—contain much good soil, and is generally covered by forest; but there are several large grassy clearings with pandanus trees. At the village of Werewere, near the entrance to Mullin's Harbour on its east side, two men of our party, who got there in advance by water, were met by threatening and hostile demonstrations. The whole body proceeded there next day, and met with a friendly reception, and received presents from the natives.

45. On the 29th January the villages of the Island of Logea (Heath Island) were visited. They have been brought to some extent under missionary influence. Some misapprehension and prejudice on the part of certain influential natives in respect of the Government were, it is believed, removed by this visit. The houses of the natives seemed to be the worst that had come under observation. It contains a population of 300 to 400, and but little cultivatable land.

46. The villages of Sariba (Hayte Island) were visited on 30th January. It supports a population of about 500 or 600. Both here and at Logea the natives obtain considerable quantities of fish as food. The occupants of some of the Sariba villages had some time previously made a raid on the people of Kitai; but on being remonstrated with they promised to compensate Kitai according to the decision of Mr. Hely, who was to bring the parties face to face and assess damages. On Sariba there is, connected with the London Missionary Society, a native teacher who impressed me as being a very respectable, sensible, worthy man—a hard worker for the good of his countrymen. His labours seem to be attended with some considerable degree of success.

47. On the way from Samarai to Port Moresby we were able to pay a short visit to the excellently conducted station of the London Missionary Society at Suav Island. Nearly 50 scholars, many of them adults, some men well advanced in years, read before me there. The whole establishmeut is a monument to the courage and perseverance of the Rev. James Chalmers, by whose exertions mainly it was created. It is now conducted by a native of Rarotonga, and is certainly one of the best native schools I have seen in any country.

48. Leaving Port Moresby in a trading cutter on February 18th, I proceeded to visit again the district between the starting point and Kerepunu. The prisoners brought from Samarai and lodged in gaol at Port Moresby had escaped and gone in that direction, and the Government Agent of the district, having met with an accident, had left the station, and the neighbouring country was in a very unsatisfactory state—murder being a not infrequent occurrence. One of the prisoners was captured, and another returned voluntarily to Port Moresby; but the remaining four made their way through this part of the country toward the east end. The Government station at Rigo was my headquarters for about three weeks, and many of the inland villages were visited. Mr. A. E. English was appointed to act as Government Agent of

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

the district pending the recovery of Mr. George Hunter, and his conduct during the time he held office gave every satisfaction. The station had not been improved formerly to the extent that might have been expected, and no decided act of authority or control had been exercised in the district—a matter for which the Government Agent could not be held responsible. Many villages, including those of Rigo, Saroa, Gosoru, and Garia, were inspected, and a chief nominated in the latter place to succeed one just dead. Disputes were arranged satisfactorily between several of the tribes of the district in a way to preserve the peace. The Quaipo people were also visited, and made acquainted with the existence and nature of the Government.

The worst cases of crime that called for investigation in the district were a murder committed at Kerepunu and the massacre of a woman and four children belonging to Veiburi by the Manukoro tribe. The Manukoro chiefs refused to come to the Government station to discuss matters, and it was not convenient to visit them from that quarter at that time. The native charged with murder at Kerepunu was, however, arrested in his own village on February 22nd, and sent on to Port Moresby. This arrest, carried out under cover of a considerable force, produced a deep impression amongst the natives of the vicinity. The neighbours of the Manukoro tribe were warned that Manukoro was not friendly with the Government.

49. On March 21st an expedition consisting of five Europeans left Port Moresby for Manukoro to arrest some of those accused of the murder of the Veiburi woman and children.

We halted first at Kaile, where there is a station of the London Missionary Society, and thence proceeded to visit the Veiburi tribe, where the plainest proof was seen that the murder had been committed, the bodies of the victims being still exposed to view, according to the manner of disposing of the dead in that district. Trustworthy information showed that the attack was carried out in a treacherous manner, and that the murders were coldblooded and unprovoked. The Manukoro tribe is powerful of itself, and had strong allies; the Veiburi people are now only a remnant, and could not think of facing the Manukoro people in war. Neither have been brought in any degree under missionary influence. The principal chief of Manukoro was induced to meet us at Kaile, and when the object of the Government was fully explained to him that it was determined to punish only the actual murderers, and that no harm should befall their innocent tribesmen, an arrangement which at first seemed rather strange to him, he at last said he and his friends would not defend those we wished to secure. Accompanied by Mr. English and his two native constables, and by a number of the Kaile men transporting our baggage as the period of our detention was quite unknown, we went on March 23rd to Manukoro, careful dispositions being made and maintained to guard against treachery or an open attack. The tribe occupies a beautiful and fertile hill country, and possesses three strong villages. In one of these, three of the murderers, in

the midst of a considerable assemblage of the tribe, were cleverly and courageously seized by Mr. English and his constables, assisted by Mr. Robert Hunter, the rest of our party standing on the defensive. No attempt at rescue was made, and the prisoners were safely lodged at Port Moresby. The three men were tried in the Central Court on the 31st May, and were sentenced to undergo capital punishment. These sentences were commuted to imprisonment, because they were acting to a large extent under the influence of another man; and it was thought their arrest among their own people and in a district partially under the influence of Government, and their detention in prison, would be sufficient as a deterrent to others.

50. On April 9th a visit of inspection was begun, which extended westwards from Port Moresby as far as Kabadi and Doura. The coast villages of Borobada, Boera, and Manu-Manu were examined first. They have each a representative of the London Missionary Society living among them, but these men have in hand a very difficult task to overcome the indifference of the natives to church matters. There was in this district, as all along the coast from Kerepunu westward, much scarcity of food. The season had been extraordinarily dry, and as the soil is light and rather poor at the best of times, the earth crops had been almost a complete failure. These tribes were all living at peace with each other. They did not present an unhealthy appearance, although so poorly fed that they were very glad to obtain mangrove seeds as food. Some stolen property was caused to be restored at Borobada and Kabadi. The remnant of the Doura tribe was visited on the Veimauri River, and were assured of protection from their more powerful neighbours of Kabadi and of the interior. In Doura there are a few thousand acres of good land, covered by forest. Part of it belongs to Government in virtue of a purchase from the tribe.

51. From April 20th to June 25th I and my staff were occupied on a tour of inspection which led us into the interior as far as the main range. A full account of our visit to that part of the Possession is set forth in a Despatch, copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix D. (page 59).

52. On June 28th the schools of the London Missionary Society at Port Moresby were examined. These, under the remarkably able and intelligent direction of the Rev. W. G. Lawes, were found to be conducted by most enthusiastic and successful teachers, among whom Mrs. Lawes has to be included. The different classes embrace all stages of proficiency, from the bright and merry little Papuan struggling with the alphabet to the grave and earnest student seriously preparing to become himself a teacher. In the upper school 29 pupils were examined, and in the lower school about 60. The order and regularity maintained in this school would of themselves be valuable training for such a people. The earnestness of the bulk of the students and scholars and the interest they took in their work was surprising to one that had seen so much of the indifference of the natives to missionary teaching in many of the villages. There are probably few places

in which equally good work is carried on with such absence of ostentation as is the case in the establishment conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Lawes.

Government Property.

53. The property of the Government of the Possession consists chiefly of land, houses, vessels and stock, transferred to it from the Protectorate.

Port Moresby.—The most important tract of land held by the Crown is an area of 553 acres at Port Moresby. This was purchased from the natives and surveyed in 1886, and partly laid off as town allotments. This land is of use and has been partially fenced for pastoral purposes, but it is not well watered, while for agriculture it is too steep and is more or less arid. Besides the sites occupied by Government buildings, three-quarter acre allotments have been taken up and are occupied by the premises of Mr. A. Goldie. Should it ever be the case that a town of any considerable size arose at this port it would be mostly or entirely on the land now belonging to Government there. No town allotments have been disposed of, except those given to Mr. Goldie in exchange for land elsewhere.

54. Government buildings at Port Moresby are—

(*a.*) Government House, a wood and iron structure of one storey, 66 feet long by 36 feet broad, containing six rooms, with the necessary outhouses. It is a very unfortunate circumstance that Government House and the other public offices have been erected at a distance of more than a mile and a half from each other. Government House was built first and the public offices were put up near the seaward end of the eastern side of the harbour in the hope of obtaining there good sanitary conditions. They are conveniently placed for easy access to shipping in the port.

(*b.*) A boat-shed of iron at Government House Pier.

(*c.*) Government offices, in which the business of the Government Secretary, Customs, and postal matters, &c., are transacted. This building is of wood and iron, 64 feet long by 39 feet broad, verandah included.

(*d.*) A building in which the printing plant is kept and worked. In this, also, the Chief Judicial Officer has chambers. Part of the building is also used for the accommodation of certain officers of the Government. There are some small outhouses connected with it.

(*e.*) The lock-up is a strong wooden building, 30 feet long and 16 feet broad, divided into three cells. Near it are the quarters of the gaoler, a small house of galvanised iron.

(*f.*) There is also a small building which serves as quarters for the Collector of Customs; and there remain some one or two buildings of no value.

55. The whole of the Island of Samarai was acquired by the Protectorate Government in 1888. It has been made the principal

Government station for the east end of the Possession, and it is the second port of entry, the other being Port Moresby. This place was decided on as the site for the Government station a few months before the declaration of Sovereignty, about which time the buildings there were completed. The position is picturesque; but the island is not healthy. It has an area of about 59 acres, of which probably about one sixth consists of swamp which cannot be drained and will cost a large sum to fill up. Another great drawback to this place is that tides and currents run so strong round the island that small craft very frequently drift away from their anchorages. Commander William Moore, then of H.M.S. "Dart," recommended ("Blue Book," C. 4584, page 130) Suav (South Cape) as the best site for such a station and port; and there seems to me to be much to support his opinion. But for the present at least the station must remain at Samarai, and, for financial reasons, will probably be kept there permanently. The Government buildings at Samarai consist of a wooden house with appropriate outhouses, occupied by the Government officers as quarters and offices; a log-house prison, and some old buildings of no value which serve as quarters for boatmen, &c.

56. In the Doura district some 30 or 40 miles from Port Moresby, and six or eight miles inland from Manu-Manu, there is an unsurveyed area of a few thousand acres, the property of the Crown, purchased from the native owners by the Protectorate Government. It contains some good alluvial forest land; but the vendors are in occupation, having their houses and gardens on the land sold. A reserve of about 16 acres was also purchased from the natives of Wari (Teste Island) in 1888, to be available as a site for a Government station, should one at any time be established there. The Government has not actually taken possession of the land at Doura and Wari. In the Rigo district there is a Government station on about 15 acres, purchased from the natives in 1887. The quarters of the Government Agent stand on this land, consisting of one building not worth more than a few pounds. About half of the land is fit for cultivation.

57. Mr. Douglas, when Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, took much interest in the establishment of a small herd of cattle at Port Moresby. In 1886 six cows and a short-horn bull were introduced. The herd now consists of 13 head. The very dry nature of the soil and climate at Port Moresby has been rather unfavourable to stock, but on the whole the beasts seem to thrive fairly well. The Government also possesses 15 horses, of which three are at Rigo Station; the rest are at Port Moresby. Of these several have been reared in the country; they also thrive tolerably well, but seem to become rather weak and anæmic. They are not of much use for travelling purposes on account of the rough nature of the country.

58. Vessels the property of the Government are the s.s. "Merrie England," the schooner "Hygeia," and the cutter "Maino." The "Merrie England" is a screw steamer of 260 tons gross, built in 1883, of wood with iron ribs. This vessel was supplied

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

by the Imperial Government in accordance with the terms of the second schedule to the "British New Guinea (Queensland) Act of 1887," section 5. The steamer left England on the 2nd March 1889, and reached Thursday Island 8th May, arriving at Port Moresby 12th May.

The "Merrie England" steams from nine to ten knots, and is staunch and well found. The complement on board is 20. The schooner "Hygeia" is a vessel of 56 tons register, and built of wood at Adelaide in 1874, purchased by the Protectorate Government in 1887. This is a useful and handy craft.

The cutter "Maino" is of 10 tons, built in 1883, on the Island of Kosmann, in the Louisiades, of wood from the neighbouring islands. A number of whale boats, &c., also belong to the Government.

Establishments.

59. Officers employed in the service of the Possession during the year were as follows:—

Office.	Name.	Date of assuming or leaving Office.	Emoluments per Annum.
Administrator - -	Sir William MacGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G.	4th September 1888-	1,500*l.* and 200*l.* allowance.
Private Secretary* -	B. H. Thomson - -	From 4th Sept. 1888 to 28th Feb. 1889.	300*l.*
	J. B. Cameron - -	9th March 1889 -	
Chief Judicial Officer -	The Hon. Francis Pratt Winter.	25th October 1888 -	1,000*l.*
Government Secretary -	The Hon. Anthony Musgrave.	4th September 1888	500*l.* and 200*l.* allowance.
Resident Magistrate -	The Hon. B. A. Hely -	21st October 1888 -	500*l.* & quarters.
Chief Interpreter, &c. -	Frank Lawes - -	4th September 1888	300*l.* „
Government Printer -	John George Allen -	„ „	250*l.* „
Government Agent, Rigo	George Hunter - -	„ „	„ „
Gaoler and Overseer -	Dennis Gleeson - -	„ „	„ „
Sub-Collector, Samarai† -	Gustav Edelfelt - -	„ „	„ „
Keeper, Government House.	Charles Kowald - -	„ „	100*l.* „
Warden, Sudest‡ - -	J. B. Cameron - -	8th October 1888 to 28th February 1889.	600*l.*
Master "Hygeia" -	Captain Colin Thomson -	4th September 1888	240*l.*
Mate "Hygeia" - -	Thomas Craig - -	„ „	144*l.*
Master "Maino" - -	George Kerr - -	From 4th Sept. 1888 to 19th Jan. 1889.	160*l.*

60. During the first few months of the Administration the coloured labourers employed as boatmen were South Sea Islanders who had been engaged for specified terms, not then expired, by the Protectorate Government. They were receiving 5*l.* and 6*l.* a month with 2*s.* each a day as ration allowance. As their

* Mr. T. H. Hatton Richards is now private secretary.

† Mr. Edelfelt has since left the service and been succeeded by Mr. David Ballantine.

‡ Duties now discharged by the Hon. M. H. Moreton.

engagements expired their places were taken by Papuans, who are generally paid 1*l.* a month and receive rations which are not expensive. For police work and when travelling in unknown or unsettled districts one cannot trust to Papuans exclusively, and the South Sea Islanders require such high pay—they ask for 10*s.* a day with rations—that it will probably be necessary for the Government to introduce a number of South Sea Islanders for the public service, as those already here, accustomed to the advanced rate of wages they received before, will not now work for less.

Executive Council.

61. The members of the Executive Council are :—

The Administrator,
The Honourable F. P. Winter,
The Honourable A. Musgrave,
The Honourable B. A. Hely.

Legislative Council.

The same as the Executive Council.
There were appointed as extraordinary members :—
On one occasion, Captain Colin Thomson ;
On two occasions, J. B. Cameron, Esquire.

TRADE.

62. In the Appendix E., page 87, will be found detailed statements of imports, exports, and navigation; also a return which shows the amount of ordinary correspondence that has passed through the Post Office.

Imports.

The total value of imports declared at the Custom House at Port Moresby was 5,091*l.* 19*s.* ; at Samarai, 6,016*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, making a total of 11,108*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* The principal items may be stated thus:—

	£
Food stuffs - - - -	5,400
Drapery - - - - -	1,185
Tobacco - - - - -	996
Hardware - - - - -	927
Beverages - - - - -	805
Clothes - - - - -	550
Building materials - - -	246

Exports.

63. *Gold.*—As shown in Appendix E., the quantity and value of gold declared at the Custom House for export was only 334$\frac{2}{3}$ oz.,

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

valued at 1,209*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* To Mr. Burkitt, Sub-Collector of Customs, Cooktown, I am indebted for the following return :—

Return of Gold reported Inwards at the Custom House, Cooktown, from the Louisiade Goldfield from the opening up of same until 30th June 1889.

Year.	Quarter ending.	Ozs.	Value.
			£
1888 - - -	30th September - -	156	624
1888 - - -	31st December - -	1,398	5,275
1889 - - -	31st March - -	1,129	4,148
1889 - - -	30th June - -	1,167	4,340
		3,850	14,387

(Signed) J. S. BURKITT,
Sub-Collector.

Customs, Cooktown, 17th September 1889.

There is no doubt that a much larger quantity of gold was procured than has been declared at the Customs, but it is impossible to obtain any accurate data on the point. All the gold has been obtained from the two islands, Sudest and St. Aignan. Mining began nearly about the time sovereignty was declared. About the middle of September 1888 there were approximately 200 men on the field. The number increased rapidly, and has varied considerably, the maximum reached being from 700 to 800 men. The fields were getting worked out towards the end of the year, only alluvial gold having been found, and that mostly on the beds of creeks. The operations of the miners did not in any way encroach on native occupation. The conduct of the men was remarkably good, there being few disputes among themselves and rarely any quarrel with natives. Many miners have suffered much in health, generally from fever, attacks of which have been aggravated by want of appropriate food and by the great exposure to which they are subjected in working the creeks and gullies. Six deaths were reported to the magistrate of the district.

Pearl-shell.—The pearl-shell fishery is apparently declining. Fishermen say the reason is that the shell easy to procure has already been obtained, and that which remains is in water of too great a depth for the diving apparatus. The quantity declared was 15¾ tons; value, 1,510*l.*

Beche-de-Mer.—This fishery is prosecuted in different parts of the waters of the Possession, most of the actual fishing being done by natives. There is much reason to believe that in the western

waters a large amount of fishing for trepang and shell is carried on, the proceeds of which figure in Queensland returns. The question of regulating this industry is now under consideration. The quantity of trepang entered outwards was 38½ tons; value, 2,178*l.*

Timber does not appear as an article of export. There can be little doubt that there are many valuable varieties of timber in the Possession; but the subject requires careful and systematic study.

Copra and Cocoanuts will eventually form a valuable export. This palm grows luxuriantly along the coasts, and happily the country is free from the hurricanes that so seriously interfere with cocoanut plantations in many of the islands of the Pacific. The unusually severe scarcity of food consequent on protracted drought has temporarily materially reduced the quantity of cocoanuts available for export. The value of copra exported was declared at 550*l.*; quantity, 76 tons.

Shipping.

64. The total number of sea-going vessels entered inwards was 47, one of which was under a foreign flag. The total tonnage inwards was 4,108 The clearances outwards were 38 vessels, their tonnage 3,284. It is manifest that a number of vessels must have left the Possession without a clearance outwards. The shipping relations of the Possession may said to be practically exclusively with Queensland. Coastwise there were 151 vessels entered in, with a total tonnage of 3,374, and outwards 150 vessels of 3,668 tons.

65. By the Post Office there were received inwards 2,366 letters, 93 packets, and 4,071 newspapers; and despatched 2,587 letters, 98 packets, and 574 newspapers. Queensland postage stamps are in use in the Possession. There is at present no subsidised mail service.

Mission Work.

66. Mission work is being carried on by the London Missionary Society and by the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The missions east of Port Moresby and west as far as Kabadi were visited during the year. These are all conducted by the London Missionary Society. The stations now being established about Motu-Motu by the Rev. James Chalmers, and those further west, have not yet been seen by me. Speaking generally, these establishments seem to suffer from an insufficiency of planting lands. It would be very desirable to see all such stations provided with land sufficient to grow food to make such centres self-supporting. The men employed as teachers and preachers, natives or Polynesians, are generally of a superior class and character. Many of them displayed that doggedness in adhering to their task which is so necessary in dealing with the Papuans in such matters. The European members of the mission I have met with lead a life of self-abnegation, and devote themselves with

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

zeal and perseverance to their labour of love. Great tact and persistency is required on their part, but, above everything else, patience. Difficult and laborious as their work is, progress is being made by their steady efforts. The success of the mission where the European ministers are at work is already clear and incontestable. One acquainted with the native race and conditions of the country cannot, without admiration, see what has been accomplished by the veteran members of the mission. So far as one can judge, and it is admitted that it is hazardous to form an opinion on such a subject, the Papuan has not as yet been deeply impressed by the truths of the Gospel. To religious fervour they are strangers. They cannot be said to be devotees of the Church or to be otherwise than indifferent to her teaching. But if striking outward manifestation of the working of religious feeling is rare among those under the influence of the mission, it can be said without reserve that the labours of the missionaries have to such an extent modified the ways of thinking and the social relations of the natives that the good they have done is incalculably great. Deeper religious sentiment will no doubt be developed with time.

67. The following information with respect to the London Missionary Society's establishment in the Possession has been kindly supplied by the Rev. W. G. Lawes :—

Mission Staff.

	Men.	Women.
Europeans - - - -	7	3
South Sea Islanders - -	34	33
Papuans - - - -	17	17
	58	53
Total persons - -	111	

Average stipend, a head, 22*l.*

Entire expense of mission, including vessels (as per L. M. S. Report, 1888), 5,290*l.*

Stations occupied, 50.

Church members—that is, men and women who after being in the catechism class for at least a year, and having given satisfactory evidence of change of life and character have been baptised and admitted into the fellowship of a Christian Church—about 500.

Children in attendance at school, 3,500.

Dialects reduced to writing and printed in elementary books, 7.

Scriptures translated and printed in Motu dialect—the Four Gospels. Translated but not yet printed : Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians.

68. Nothing can be stated herein with regard to the Roman Catholic Mission from personal observation. Its headquarters are at Ravao (Yule Island).

The staff consists of :—

His Grace Archbishop Navarre.	
Fathers - - - - -	4
Brothers - - - - -	8
Sisters - - - - -	7
Total - - - -	20

Land.

69. So much has already been spoken and written with regard to the acquisition of land in the Possession that it may be considered expedient and desirable to briefly advert to the subject here. As already indicated above, paragraph 9, land or any interest therein can be acquired from natives by the Administrator only, who has power to transfer to third parties in such manner as may be provided by law. Legislation is in course of preparation to enable grants to be issued in fee simple and titles to real estate to be registered. But while this is pointed out it is necessary that attention to be drawn to the fact that there may not be any considerable quantity of Crown lands to deal with ; and the mere passing of such laws as those indicated, required on account of certain uncontested claims to lands long under European occupation does nothing more than provide the machinery for the sale of land, and in no way indicates or commits the Government to any particular line of action in regard to the disposal of land. Under the law now in force in the Possession, Ordinance No. II. of 1888, Section V., it is illegal for the Administrator—who alone can purchase from the aboriginal owners—to buy or lease land unless it is clear that it is not required or likely to be required by the native owners.

Now, as far as has been learned from the inspection tours mentioned in this Report, there are no large areas of fine land that are not required by natives. The villages in which the natives live are often on the tops of ridges and hills, but they naturally, being a race of cultivators, plant their food crops in their best lands, sometimes at long distances from the village. The Government could not, without violating the law, dispossess these settled communities ; and it certainly does not possess the physical force that would be required to do so. The probability is that there are considerable areas of country that will be regarded, after full inquiry, as Crown lands, on which there are no settled occupants ; but such lands will be generally useful only for

mineral purposes and producing timber. This is only what one might expect if one bears in mind that the natives are numerous, and good land of limited amount. No opinion is expressed here with regard to the statement so often made, that in the western part of the Possession there are large tracts of fine cultivatable land unoccupied. Mr. Milman, who has perhaps seen more of that part of the country than any other man, and who has observed it without entertaining any preconceived opinion as to the alienation of land there, says that the region is thickly peopled. Any statement made by Mr. Milman may be received with implicit confidence, and it would therefore be unsafe to count on great areas of fine Crown lands in the west.

70. It cannot be sufficiently often repeated in connexion with the land question in the Possession that the Papuans, as far as the country has been officially inspected, are agriculturalists, and live in settled village communities. They are almost entirely dependent on their gardens for the means of existence, and on the fruits or products of certain trees growing on the tribal lands, bread-fruit, cycas, hodava, figs, mangrove, sago, mangoes, &c. By hunting and fishing they sometimes supplement their vegetable fare; but these additions to their diet, though important in some districts, in no way weaken the assertion that, to use a figure of speech, the people are dependent on cultivation for their bread. As to the fixed nature of their settlement on the land, it may be observed that, although many village sites are clearly ancient, yet large numbers, if not the majority, are not very old. The village is not infrequently shifted from one site to another within a certain radius, but that does not imply a synchronous occupation of new or abandonment of old planting lands; the gardens will, speaking generally, be kept up at the same places as before, if there are no reasons of fear or force to necessitate a change. In short, certain tribes frequently shift the place of their abode from one part of their land to another ; and sometimes, by permission, they build and plant on the lands of other tribes. All these mutations, however, only tend to confirm the fact of fixed proprietary rights in the soil.

71. As might be supposed, there are considerable patches of good land here and there in the Possession, a natural inference with respect to an area probably hardly less than 90,000 square miles; but it must be said of the soil generally that it is not rich.

The natives, however, do not employ it to the best advantage ; and in proportion to population there are, in all probability, more hungry people in British New Guinea than in any other country in the world. This is to be ascribed chiefly to two reasons. They generally excuse themselves for not planting by saying if they did plant food it would be stolen. They are so conservative in their habits that it is extremely difficult to induce them to cultivate introduced articles of food.

Finance.

72. By "The British New Guinea (Queensland) Act of 1887" the Colony of Queensland accepted the obligation of providing a sum not exceeding 15,000*l.* a year for 10 years in respect of the necessary expenses of the administration of the territory. The liability began on the 4th September 1888. It is understood that the Colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria contribute in equal proportions the amount guaranteed; but it appears from the auditor's report that Western Australia has paid a contribution of 161*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* Any revenue collected in the Possession is to be applied in reduction of the sums to be paid by the contributing Colonies unless they have sanctioned an expenditure exceeding 15,000*l.* A balance left to the credit of the appropriation account of one year cannot be carried forward to the next year unless agreed to by the three Colonies mentioned above.

By Ordinance No. V. of 1888 a sum not exceeding 9,725*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* was appropriated to the service of the Possession from the 4th September 1888 to the 30th June 1889. The proportionate part of 15,000*l.* for that period would have been 12,328*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, so that a sum of 2,671*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* was left in abeyance. During the financial year, however, authority was received to incur increased expenditure in appointing a Resident Magistrate for the eastern end of the Possession and a warden for the gold-fields. Certain allowances were also sanctioned. The total sum expended was 10,769*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*—that is, 1,559*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* less than the proportion of 15,000*l.* available, but 1,043*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* more than was sanctioned by Ordinance No. 5, and for which a supplementary appropriation law has now to be passed.

73. The actual expenditure may be classified as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil List—salaries - -	2,633	19	7
Other salaries - - -	1,796	0	6
Vessels and boats - - -	2,747	11	4
Stores - - - -	722	0	7
Allowance to officers - -	1,371	1	11
Mail service - - -	445	0	0
Buildings and fences - -	239	16	11
Administrative tours, arrest and detention of prisoners - -	764	2	8
Miscellaneous - - -	49	17	9
	10,769	11	3

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

74. The total revenue collected and paid over to the Queensland Treasury amounted to 2,679*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, made up of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs dues - - -	2,419	10	2
Goldfield receipts - - -	187	17	0
Shipping fees - - -	1	18	0
Fines - - - -	25	13	6
Licenses - - - -		0	0
Miscellaneous - - -	42	13	2
	2,679	11	10

In addition to his other duties as Government Secretary, Resident Magistrate for the Central District, &c., Mr. Musgrave has also acted as Treasurer for the Possession. His statements of revenue and expenditure, and the certificate of the Auditor-General of Queensland, will be found in Appendix J. (page 128).

Two only of the items of account in these statements seem to call for comment:—(*a*) Under the item "Presents to Natives," 468*l.*, there has been included over 400*l.* paid to natives for services rendered. Less than 50*l.* was actually disbursed as "presents." (*b*) The sum of 1,716*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* has been paid as an advance from the administration account, which will be recovered by a transfer from the maintenance account of the s.s. "Merrie England," which is a charge against Her Majesty's Imperial Government.

75. During the year the officers and labourers employed by the Government suffered much from fever. With the exception of that malady, however, there was little illness among them—in fact, were it not for fever British New Guinea would be a healthy country. Dysentery and sunstroke are rare. Elephantiasis, sporadic amongst natives, has not been known to affect a European here. Leprosy is not an uncommon native disease, but it does not present its worst form, and has not been communicated to any white person. The only contagious skin disease of any consequence from which the natives suffer is the most loathsome form of ringworm. Itch has not been introduced.

76. The greatest difficulty from a sanitary point of view is therefore fever. The conditions under which it is to be expected are not well understood. Sometimes when camped for weeks on dry comparatively clear country, where one would expect men to remain in good health—weather, soil, and everything else apparently favourably—fever has been very troublesome. On other occasions the disease has produced little inconvenience when the sanitary surroundings would have been considered, theoretically, to be decidedly unfavourable. The characteristic of fever here is its uncertainty. It is uncertain in its advent, often coming on without premonitory symptoms; of uncertain duration and of uncertain severity. Men who have been in the country for half a

score of years seem to be nearly as liable to it as the new arrival. If a person remains at one spot—at Port Moresby, for example—not exposed to wet, fatigue, or great alternations of temperature, he may expect to be practically free from fever. But given a party, say, of ten men on an administrative tour of inspection and the matter is different. Of the ten men after they are a few days out one or two will daily be "down with fever;" and if the journey lasts a month all will have suffered from fever except one or two. With some the attack will last a few hours, with others it produces complete prostration. A considerable number of individuals, probably more than one in 10, become, so to speak, so saturated with fever that in a few months they must leave the country or succumb to it. Fortunately we had no death from fever in the service, but several of the cases were very severe. Better treatment for the disease will become known, and experience may teach people to take better care of themselves; but fever will always be a serious matter in this country.

Scientific Results.

77. During the year some addition was made to our knowledge of the natural history of the country. Unfortunately, it is not possible to set out fully here the progress made, as the report on specimens sent to England has not yet reached me. It is my hope that in future all specimens collected may be examined in Australia, so that the information gained can be kept together and be summarised in each annual report.

Geology.—Thirty-one small bags of specimens were examined by Mr. Robert L. Jack, Government Geologist of Queensland. All except two were from the Louisiade and D'Entrecasteaux Groups. Mr. Jack's report, which will be found to be interesting and valuable, is annexed hereto (Appendix F., page 93). A set of specimens, covering the route from Manu-Manu to the summit of the Owen Stanley Range, was submitted to careful examination by Mr. Rands, Assistant Government Geologist of Queensland, who at the same time classified the specimens collected in the Rigo District. Mr. Rand's Report will also be found in Appendix F. hereto. Although not forming any part of the work of the year, there is added to the same Appendix a report on certain geological specimens from the Possession, kindly sent us by C. S. Wilkinson, Esq. These three reports practically contain all that is really known of the geology of the country.

78. *Ornithology.*—The greater portion of the birds obtained were classified by Mr. De Vis. His report, prepared after much careful labour, is added as Appendix G., page 105, and will be found to well repay perusal. From it we may perhaps infer that the probability is that no great addition will be made now to the more beautiful and gorgeous birds of British New Guinea.

79. *Reptiles.*—The reptiles collected during the latter part of the year were classified by Mr. De Vis, Director of the Queensland Museum. They include 10 species of snakes. Mr. De Vis has reported that of these 10 species only two, a death-adder and a whip snake, are to be dreaded. The small batrachian mentioned

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

by Mr. De Vis is interesting, as having been brought from the top of Mount Victoria. Mr. De Vis' report forms Appendix H., page 116.

A Note kindly furnished by Mr. W. H. Miskin, giving the results of his examination of a collection of Lepidoptera, and a description by Mr. C. Hedley of a new Rhytida from the highest summit of the Owen Stanley Range, will also be found in Appendix H.

80. *Botany.*—All botanical specimens were sent to Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, K.C.M.G., &c. That great master of the botanical science has found time to classify the specimens forwarded to him, and his report thereon, Appendix I., page 125, cannot fail to interest the reader. In this branch much yet remains to be done, the collecting of plants being attended with great difficulties here.

Conclusion.

81. This Report would be incomplete did it not record the fact that during the year the Administration has not only had the support of, but also material assistance from, the Government of Queensland. The valuable aid rendered in the most generous and hearty manner by Sir Charles Lilley and the Hon. A. J. Thynne has already been mentioned. The late Sir Anthony Musgrave, with that zeal and devotion to the Queen's service that was so characteristic of the man, was ever ready to advance the work of the Administration wherever he could. Sir Arthur Palmer, Administrator of the Government of Queensland from 9th October 1888 to 30th April of the present year, took the deepest interest himself in the development of government here, and by the publication of a large number of despatches dealing with tours of inspection, &c., communicated that interest to many others who, under different circumstances, would have regarded the Possession with indifference. It was mentioned above (paragraph 37) that Sir Arthur Palmer and Mr. Morehead sent the Government steamer "Albatross" to the Possession in January. The importance of that action was great. There had been no ship of war in the waters of British New Guinea for some time before that, and there was none for months afterwards. Had any serious miscalculation of strength been made, and the safety of those employed in the east end of the Possession been gravely imperilled, the only reserve force available to maintain the authority of the Government would have been that supplied by the "Albatross." Not only were the hands of the Administrator left practically free by a Government desirous of even-handed justice to all races in the Possession, but every departmental assistance that could be given was promptly supplied by Mr. Morehead and his colleagues. Whatever mistakes have been made in the Administration must, therefore, be attributed to the Administrator.

82. Of the officers of the Possession only what is good and creditable can be said. Very valuable service in opening courts

of justice, in disposing of judicial cases with that patience that is ever so much required in dealing with these natives, has been rendered by Mr. Winter, Chief Judicial Officer. Mr. Musgrave as Government Secretary, and Mr. Hely as Resident Magistrate, have brought to bear the experience of previous years spent in New Guinea, and have faithfully and well discharged their duties. On Mr. Frank Lawes the Government has mainly depended in dealing with native matters in the central district; but that has not prevented him from performing good service in other ways. Of Mr. Allen, Government printer, it may be said that no better appointment could have been made. The services of a no less faithful, if more humble, officer, Mr. Gleeson, are also gratefully acknowledged.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency Sir Henry Wylie Norman,
G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., Governor of Queensland.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.*

Tariff.

APPENDIX B.

Note upon the Hot Spring Waters, Ferguson Island, D'Entrecasteaux Group. By Professor A. Liversidge, M.A., F.R.S. London.

The specimens forming the subject of this Note were collected by the Hon. Dr. MacGregor, C.M.G., Administrator of New Guinea, and forwarded to me by him, as it was thought that these waters might prove to be of scientific interest.

Accompanying the specimens was the following description of the hot springs, prepared by Mr. Basil Thomson, together with two photographs of the locality:—

"The evidence of volcanic action on the east end of Ferguson and Goulvain Islands in the D'Entrecasteaux Group were plainly visible from the sea, but a few miles to the westward gave place to a schistose slaty formation, of which the island seems mainly composed. It was therefore with us a little surprise that on the evening of our anchoring in Seymour Bay we noticed a strong smell of sulphur, the fumes being sufficient to discolour the white paint on the vessel during the night.

"Seymour Bay lies in the narrow strait named by Captain Moresby after himself, and is fringed with mangroves and dense scrub and backed by low hills.

"After forcing our way through mangroves and sago swamps for about half a mile, we came on a well-beaten native path which led to a rapid stream. Some of our party who stopped to prospect for gold found the gravel in the bed of the stream too hot for the hand, although the water of the stream was cold. Making our way southward, we emerged from dense scrub upon a flat, bare of vegetation and dotted with little hillocks of pure sulphur from which vapour was rising. The vegetation surrounding this flat was identical with that in the non-volcanic country and terminated suddenly, but on the flat itself a few eucalypti were trying to exist.

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* *See* pp. 293–297 of C.—5883], August 1889.

"This is the most easterly point at which this tree was found in British New Guinea.

"Passing over this flat, which gave a hollow sound to the feet, showing that the crust was very thin, we climbed a low hill and looked down upon a small lake shut in by hills, having a margin of dazzling whiteness made by the crystallisation of salts, which tasted strongly of alum. At the foot of the hill was a spring of boiling water which discharged into the lagoon.

"The low hills surrounding the lake were composed of sulphur and the white salt referred to above.

"The water of the lake, which was covered with wild fowl, was of a light yellow colour, and tepid, and the margin was surrounded by a thin crust, which gave way when trodden on and let one of our party through into three feet of black slime.

"All round the base of the hills was a succession of holes full of boiling mud.

"Near the summit of one of the low hills we found a larger hole which was throwing up liquid mud to the height of several feet with loud reports. (Photograph enclosed.)

"Further to the northward we found a similar lake of hot springs, and some of our party, who were obliged by the hostility of the natives to pass the night on the top of one of the sulphur hills, experienced much inconvenience from the fumes. At night the hills give out a bluish light."

None of the specimens were in sufficient quantity to permit of a full analysis being made of their mineral constituents, the largest being in a so-called quart bottle.

The only quantitative determination which could be conveniently made were the total solids, fixed solids, loss on ignition, and chlorine.

The loss on ignition includes any organic matter which may have been present, the loss of water of combination, volatile and decomposable salts, together with some sulphur.

There were four samples in all. No. 1, labelled "Seymour Bay, Ferguson Island, 11.11.88. Boiling water from Hot Springs."

This sample was contained in a soda-water bottle, and as one half of it consisted of solid matter, it would be more correctly described as a mud.

The sediment or solid matter was of a bluish grey colour and was found to contain a few distom frustules or calcium sulphate and a good deal of sulphur. At some future time it is intended to make a more complete examination of this mineral matter.

The sulphur was tested for selenium, but none was found to be present. Neither did this residue contain arsenic or phosphorus.

The supernatant liquid was filtered off from the mud after allowing the specimen to stand for two or three days; the filtrate had a strong smell of sulphurous acid, and strongly reddened blue litmus paper, showing the presence of free acid, and on exposure to the air soon become milky from the separation of sulphur.

On evaporating the filtrate down to dryness in a platinum dish over a water bath, a pale brownish residue was left, which rapidly

British New Guinea.

absorbed moisture; on ignition it intermixed strongly and gave off white acid fumes (of sulphur trioxide), the ignited residue being yellow when hot and brown when cold. The weighings gave—

Loss on ignition	-	9·63 pt. per 1,000
Fixed solids -	-	4·47 „
Total solids -	-	14·10 „

The chlorine was not determined in this sample. The fixed solids left on ignition were found to contain both soluble and insoluble silica, sufficient of the former to gelatinise with hydrochloric acid; much iron mainly present in the original water in the ferreous condition, some magnesia, lime, and a considerable quantity of sodium chloride; lithium was sought for, but no indication of it was obtained, although the other three samples gave the lithium band most readily.

Sample No. 2, labelled "Hot Springs, Seymour Bay, 11.11.88. Water after boiling." Contained in an ordinary pickle bottle.

This also showed a large amount of a powdery yellow sediment, about 10 per cent., perhaps, which consisted mainly of free sulphur. The water contained a good deal of sulphuric acid, and on evaporating down to dryness over a water bath the residue blackened from the action of the free sulphuric acid upon the organic matter present; on ignition copious fumes of sulphur trioxide were evolved. Much gelatinous silica was left, together with iron, lime, magnesia, and soda; this residue showed a well-marked lithium band.

The iron was present in the original water mainly in the ferreous state.

Loss on ignition	-	1·274 per 1,000.
Fixed solids -	-	3·630 „
Total solids -	-	4·904 „
Chlorine -	-	1·240 „

Sample No. 3, labelled "Seymour Bay, 11.11.88. Boiling water from small spring." Contained in a soda-water bottle.

This, like No. 2, contained a yellow powdery sediment of sulphur and other matters; it possessed a strong acid reaction and gave off a smell of sulphurous acid, together with that of sulphuretted hydrogen.

On evaporating down to dryness a light-coloured residue was left, brown in the centre, and on ignition this blackened considerably, but only gave off a small quantity of sulphur trioxide fumes: the salts present were the same as in No. 2, and the lithium band was equally well marked.

Loss on ignition	-	0·630 per 1,000
Fixed solids -	-	2·470 „
Total solids -	-	3·100 „
Chlorine -	-	0·730 „

Sample No. 4, labelled "Seymour Bay, 11.11.88. Water "from lagoon, hot springs saline lake. Margin surrounded by "sulphur." Contained in a wine bottle.

The sediment from this was but small in amount and of a dark brown colour; there was also a little black flocculent matter.

The water possessed a strong acid reaction and smell of sulphuretted hydrogen.

On evaporating down to dryness a large quantity of iron was found to be present, mostly in the ferreous condition; much gelatinous silica, some lime, magnesia and soda, together with lithium. On ignition the residue became intensely black, gave off slight fumes with an acid reaction, and decrepitated (from sodium chloride crystals) and left a dark ferruginous-looking residue.

Loss on ignition - -	2·110 per 1,000.
Fixed solids - - -	5·470 „
Total solids - - -	7·580 „
Chlorine - - -	1·390 „

These waters present the usual characters of hot spring waters occurring under similar conditions, and require no special comment except as to the presence of lithium, and I regret that none of the samples were sufficient to allow the amount of this element to be estimated; but perhaps on some future occasion it may be possible to bring away a larger supply of the water, or in default of that the residue left by the careful evaporation on the spot of a fair quantity of the water.

Lithium was formerly regarded as a very rare element, but the spectroscope shows that, although it only occurs in small quantities, it is one of the most widely distributed elements, and is found in many minerals, rocks, soils, and in the ashes of numerous plants.

It may prove to be present in these waters in sufficient quantity to render them useful at some future time either for medicinal or other purposes.

Sydney, 8th March 1889. A. LIVERSIDGE.

APPENDIX C.

Resident Magistrate Hely's Report on the Eastern Division.

SIR, Samarai, 12th July 1889.

I HAVE to report for your Honour's information on the affairs of the Eastern Division of the Possession from the 4th September (date of the Proclamation of Her Majesty's Sovereignty) to the 30th June:—

Native Affairs.

At the date of the Proclamation of Sovereignty relations were much strained between whites and natives, and interiribal quarrels

British New Guinea.

amongst the latter were incessant, the Milne Bay District being especially notorious in this matter. However, after Edward Ancell had been killed and his vessel burnt at Auwayama, in Chads Bay, steps were taken to bring the culprits to justice, and for the offence four natives were hanged and six imprisoned for terms varying from 12 to 18 months. This action on the part of the Government created a very great impression upon the native population within a large radius—accounts of it even reaching the Woodlark Group of Islands, the farthest outlying portion of the Possession. Two natives were appointed agents for the Government, one (Komodoa) at Porotona, in Bentley Bay, the other (Jakoba) at Mita, in Milne Bay. These men have done very good service, and I should recommend that in all populous districts the principal man, or the one with the most energy and determination, should be recognised as a representative of the Government. All over East Cape and Milne Bay the natives are perfectly aware that these two men are supported by the Government, and that they are there for the purpose of exercising supervision over the districts in which they live. This has a very deterrent effect in small matters as well as large. Petty pilfering from gardens or elsewhere is almost unknown now from Waralai to Rabi in Milne Bay. At Maivara the influence has not been so much felt, and as the latter place and Giligili are large and populous, I think it would be wise to select a man from one of the two places as a Government Agent. I am not sufficiently well acquainted with any man personally to name one who would possess the requirements for the position, but a few days' residence there would enable me to do so.

On the 10th of May a great meeting of natives took place at Burra Burra for the purpose of concluding a treaty of peace. Natives came from the extreme end of East Cape, and from the other coast to Burra Burra to meet those from the districts of Waga Waga, Maivara, Giligili, Rabi, Ahioma, Mita, Dudwe, and others. The Porotona and Ancell Peninsula districts were poorly represented. Peace was declared between all those present (probably 500 or 600 men), and it was finally decided that the days of fighting were finished, and that they all should live in amity with each other. Their mode of peace making is entirely different to that of the people to the westward. The latter make it an occasion for displaying their fighting capabilities, and make as much demonstration as possible. At Burra Burra, however, they came without weapons of any description. The chief men from each district placed a stone on a "cairn," and then the people of the eastern shores of Milne Bay showed hospitality to those from the western shores; those from East Cape to Mita bringing food with them to regale those from Ahioma to Waga Waga. This is the first time on which a general "peace making" has taken place in such a large district, and is one satisfactory result of the past nine months' administration in this division.

No disturbances have occurred between natives in any part of the district which has been visited by Government officials since

the beginning of the year. For an assault on a native at Ketai, I, in January last, fined a half-caste Fijian, by name Ned Cadigan, in the sum of 5*l.* One pound of this was devoted to compensating the native complainant. The natives of Sariba in December last made a raid on the Ketai people, killed one pig, burnt a house, and stole a quantity of yams. This was in consequence of a Sariba man, who had affiliated himself with the Ketai people, dying. Peaceful relations, however, were arranged between the two places, and they now visit each other. It was arranged that Sariba should repay Ketai for the house, pig, and yams, but through the partial failure of the yam crop they have had little or nothing to live on themselves. It is, however, thoroughly understood by both that I shall insist on the full payment being made so soon as a sufficient quantity of yams or other food can be devoted to the purpose. I am glad to be able to say that the natives understand now that piracy of this description will not be permitted, and that although they may still believe that the death of any of the friends is caused by the "evil spirits" of another tribe, they must not seek redress by murder or robbery.

At Teste Island (Wari) there has been occasional squabbles between the mission teacher Jakoba and some of his flock; but they have all been of a personal nature without violence on either side.

Some short time back it was reported to me by several traders that Jakoba was in the habit of intimidating natives from working for white men. It was also reported (by a trader) that Jakoba had killed and eaten a pig belonging to a native, and that the people were going to tie him up and bring him in to me. I visited Wari on the 14th of June, and made an exhaustive inquiry into the state of affairs there. In the course of my inquiries I saw almost every male inhabitant of the island. The reason given by the men for declining to work for traders was that the pay was insufficient—that if they agreed to work for 10*s.* a month, the amount would be represented by one tomahawk, ten sticks of tobacco, a pipe, some matches, and a mouth organ or piece of red calico, the outside value of which would be about 5*s.* 6*d.* I perfectly convinced myself that Jakoba had not interfered with the traders procuring labour. With regard to the killing of a pig, one certainly was killed, but by a native boy attached to the mission. The pig had been a public nuisance for some days, rooting up and devouring yams, &c., of which there was none too plentiful a supply. The owner informed me that he considered it quite right that the pig should be killed; and that he would kill any man's pig that destroyed *his* garden; and that he and not Jakoba had eaten the pig.

The teacher's relations with the people are on the whole very friendly. I thoroughly explained to the natives that if they worked for white men their interest would be looked after by the Government, but that if they agreed to work for a certain period they would have to carry out the contract.

The food supply in the vicinity of Samarai has been very poor, owing to the exceptionally dry season of last year spoiling the yam

crops and making food so scarce that there was a correspondingly small supply of seed yams. However, next season is likely to be a good one. At Duav (Normanby Island) and St. Aignan a fair supply can still be obtained, but Sudest, Piron, the Brooker Islands, Milne Bay, Teste, Sariba and other places are very badly off.

During June a form of influenza or pleurisy swept through the district; it was fatal in several cases in the vicinity of Samarai, but not elsewhere. At Sariba there were nine deaths, and at Logia eight. It has now ceased.

In conclusion, I may state that since the beginning of the year native affairs in this district have been very satisfactory. In most places they recognise the Government as a head, or chief, to whom they can appeal in any case of trouble either amongst themselves or with whites; and, I think, understand that in the eyes of the law the black and the white man are one. More complete means of visiting the various districts are needed. During the past five months, the goldfields at St. Aignan and Sudest claiming so much of my time, I have been unable to visit the portions of my district which now are in most urgent need of supervision—namely, the coast line westward of South Cape and the D'entrecasteaux Group, especially Ferguson and Goodenough Islands. I will deal with the native question in reference to Sudest and St. Aignan in my remarks on the gold-mining industry.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Business under this head has fortunately been small. The following is a list of cases which have come before me during the period reported upon:—

Date.	Case.	Result.
1888.		
27 October -	Mary Anne *v.* John MacCartin, assault.	Defendant fined 1*l.*
31 „ -	Regina *v.* Harry Morro, supplying liquor to native (Queensland aboriginal).	Fined 20*l.*
1 November -	Regina *v.* Fred Hunt, supplying liquor to Polynesian boatman.	Discharged.
8 December -	Totinawai, murder of E. Ancell at Chads Bay.	Committed for trial at Central Court.
13 „ -	Wabuabena, Aharipawa, Nuiakaya, Waririga. Daudiei, Lailaina; murder of E. Ancell at Chads Bay.	Ditto.
1889.		
6 January -	Hanewana, Guhregoahi, Ouata, and Edolari; murder of E. Ancell at Chads Bay.	Ditto.
8 „ -	Binuma, murder of Tageyama at Ahioma.	Remanded (still in confinement).
24 „ -	Taunuyaua *v.* E. Cadigan, assault -	Defendant fined 5*l.*
11 June -	Davy Figi, larceny - -	Discharged.

With regard to the liquor traffic there has been no breach of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1888, so far as the aboriginal inhabitants are concerned. But there can be no doubt but that liquor is supplied by the storekeepers here to Polynesians, Malays, Manilla men, and others who are included in the term native. It is impossible to prevent this without the services of police. I strongly recommend the imposition of a liquor license. If it were sold under an Ordinance it could be much better controlled than at present. The portion of the said Ordinance which deals with arms and ammunition can be well carried out, as the owners of guns or rifles who come under the terms of the Ordinance are all glad to possess a "permit."

I have issued permits under the Ordinance for the following persons to possess arms and ammunition, viz.:—

9th	January	1889.—John Cadigan, Fijian—1 rifle.
20th	„	„ Ah Gin, Chinese—2 rifles, 1 shot gun.
23rd	„	„ Harry Santo (S.S.I.)—1 revolver.
5th	February	„ E. Cadigan, Fijian—1 rifle, 1 shot gun.
13th	„	„ Francis Augustine, Malta—1 shot gun.
10th	May	„ Harry Amboym (S.S.I.) — 1 shot gun, 1 revolver.
10th	„	„ Pedro, Manilla—1 shot gun, 1 rifle, 1 revolver.
30th	„	„ Dollar, Singapore—1 revolver.
3rd	June	„ John Rogers, Gibraltar—1 rifle, 1 revolver.

With one exception, there has never been anything against the characters of these men. E. Cadigan has been fined for assaulting a native, but is not likely to again offend in that manner.

Lailaina, one of the escaped prisoners from Port Moresby (serving sentence of 12 months for participation in murder of E. Ancell), was recaptured on 3rd of May at a small village in Lawes Bay, west of Su-an. He had gone to the village for refuge, but although the natives fed him they would not let him depart, as they were afraid that the Government would punish them for assisting him. Lailaina informed me that Ouata was taken by an alligator on the way, but where he could not inform me. Aharipawa and Nuiakaya are supposed to be in hiding somewhere in the ranges at the back of Yapoa, and will be recaptured.

In Her Majesty's gaol at Samarai there are now three prisoners viz.:—

Lailaina—(sentence expires 18th January 1890).
Daudiei— „ „ „
Binuma—(on remand).

MINING.

Sudest.

My knowledge of the mining industry in this division dates from the 5th of March last, when Mr. Cameron was removed from the

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

position of warden at Sudest. At that date the field was extremely dull, a great deal of sickness prevailing and little gold being found. Men were then turning their attention to St. Aignan, at which place some 30 or 40 had been prospecting for some time. When I took over charge of the mining affairs from Mr. Cameron there were not more than 112 on Sudest, about 40 being camped at Watering Creek, 40 at the Four-Mile, and the rest scattered about the island. Dry weather, however, improved the health of the place, and as men could still obtain not less than "tucker" numbers began to increase, until now there are quite 300 men on the ground. The principal camps are still Watering Creek and the Four-Mile, though there is a moderate-sized camp at the west end of the island on White's Creek. At present some men are doing fairly well, others making wages, and a few not even that. Some few men who can afford it are tunnelling the hills at the Four-Mile, but they only get "wages" from it.

The relations between whites and natives have been very satisfactory on the whole: true it is that the latter indulge in a good deal of petty pilfering, but this is more than condoned for by their extreme usefulness to the miners—in fact, the opinion of the majority of decent men on the ground is that not half the work that has been done on Sudest could have been accomplished without the natives' assistance. In two cases which have come under my notice the natives have saved the lives of men by carrying them, in one case five miles, and another seven, into civilisation (as represented by the camp at Griffin Point), where they could receive attendance.

There are now at Griffin Point three storekeepers—A. Buckner, James Morrison, and Carvey and Mahoney. Rations are of good quality, and, owing to the competition, moderately cheap.

Six deaths have occurred at Sudest since the 5th of March 1889, namely:—

5th March, John Bailey, Griffin Point.
10th April, Mark McKenzie, Griffin Point.
15th April, James Cummins „
During Easter week, John Lindon, Griffin Point.
29th April, A. J. Ryan, Griffin Point.
30th May, Arnold Bini, Four Mile.

The cause of death in each case was fever and dysentery.

St. Aignan.

I first visited St. Aignan on the 8th of March. The workings were then on the south-eastern watershed, and very little gold was being got. About 70 oz. had been taken from one gully, but since then very little had been done. In round numbers 80 men were on the ground. There was one storekeeper, but all the men had plenty of rations with them and native food was plentiful, and the natives willing to sell it. The relations between whites and natives were very satisfactory.

On my next visit I found that a party of six had discovered a creek on the north-eastern watershed, carrying good coarse gold, rather patchy; they had named the creek St. Patrick, as it was found on the 17th of March. At this time the number of men had increased to 120. St. Aignan not having been proclaimed a goldfield I could not put the mining laws into operation. There was some little dissatisfaction in consequence of the original prospectors taking 100 feet of ground each (in all 600). This was not as much as they were entitled to, as the finders of payable gold outside three miles from the nearest workings are entitled to 10 men's ground, in addition to each man's ordinary claim of 50 by 50 feet; thus these men on a goldfield were entitled to 800 feet, and as St. Aignan was not then under the Act the claim for a find outside the limits of a goldfield could fairly be made, and the six men could have pegged out 1,300 feet. I induced the rest of the men to see this matter in its proper light, and as there was at the time plenty of ground the difficulty was easily settled.

The news of the finding of payable gold on St. Aignan brought a considerable number of men from Queensland, and there were at one time as many as 500 men on the ground, but some left and went to Sudest or to Queensland. The present population is about 400.

Four storekeepers are settled on the beach at Saganai, and are selling goods at Cooktown prices, so that the field is well off in that respect. Not much gold is being got, and several men have started working the terraces, but as yet with little success. Generally speaking, some are making wages or a little over; some, rations; and others little or nothing.

Great quantities of rain have fallen, but on the whole the health of the island has been better than at Sudest. Two deaths only have been reported to me, though I have reason to believe that one or two more have occurred which have not been reported, the mates of the men having left the island. Those reported to me were:—

15th May 1889—P. Bourke.
2nd June ,, F. Carey.

Both died of fever and dysentery.

The relations between whites and natives on my first two visits had been very satisfactory, but on my third visit, on the 26th and 27th of June, I received a note from a Mr. J. J. Brown, stating that he had reported a "little affair" of his to your Honour. What this little affair was he did not say. On inquiry I found that he had reported at the camp that he had been out prospecting and, being interfered with by natives, had shot three of them. I must say that the men on the ground were very sceptical as to the truth of this, and what natives I was able to question persisted in declaring that no one had been shot. I now find that Mr. Brown has reported the matter to your Honour, and a searching inquiry will be made into the matter at as early a date as possible. Mr. Brown had left St. Aignan for Normanby Island.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Another matter, which was not reported to me but to the Government Secretary, was the accidental shooting of a native boy by a man John MacGuire; this will also be inquired into.

At present the natives are on quite friendly terms with the whites, and are extremely useful as carriers, &c.

The settlement at Sagarai is built on the site of a native town. On my second visit no one was camped there, and there were four native houses. These houses were afterwards sold by their owners to storekeepers for tobacco. I saw the native owner of one house, who seemed very satisfied with the price he received. I think that Sagarai was never more than a fishing village, and that the natives who owned the houses really live in other parts of the island.

Rossel Island.

This island has been prospected by 16 men, who went there from St. Aignan in the cutter "Ruby;" they were four weeks there, but found nothing worth staying for—some say "colours," others nothing.

Normanby Island.

Twenty-three men left Samarai for Normanby on the 11th June, and about 16 went from St. Aignan on the 17th by the "Sea Gull." No report has yet come in from either party. Frank Rochfort (Frenchy) and a party went some weeks ago from St. Aignan, and they have since returned to Samarai, reporting that they could get nothing better than colours.

RECEIPTS.

The total revenue receipts from gold mining from 8th October 1888 to 30th June 1889 have been—

	£	s.	d.
For 298 miners' rights - -	149	0	0
„ 8 business licenses - -	32	0	0
„ registration of claims, &c. -	4	13	0
	185	13	0

POST OFFICE.

During the period reported on the transactions of the Post Office at Samarai have been as follows:—

Received.

Letters - - - - -	572
Registered letters - - - -	11
Packets - - - - -	11
Papers - - - -	644

Despatched.

Letters	934
Registered letters	29
Packets	14
Papers	80

CUSTOMS.

For the period 19th September to 31st December 1889 I could not attempt to lay before your Honour a statement of imports and exports, the accounts having been kept in a very crude manner.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Customs collections for that period were	314	16	8
And for period 1st January to 30th June 1889	1,264	3	10
Total	1,579	0	6

Statement showing Total Amount of Goods imported and exported from 1st January to 30th June 1889.

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ *s.* *d.*
Arrowroot	48 lbs.	1 6 6
Brandy	120¾ galls.	93 16 0
Rum	48½ galls.	23 1 0
Whisky	189 galls.	123 17 0
Geneva and schnapps	18 galls.	8 1 0
Wines	36 galls.	32 0 0
„ (sparkling)	2 galls.	4 4 0
Curry	112 lbs.	9 6 6
	Tons cwt. lbs.	
Tobacco	4 12 22	619 4 10
Sugar	8 2 4	212 18 6
Milk	462½ doz. lbs.	173 0 4
	Tons cwt. lbs.	
Rice	10 16 38	146 13 9
Hardware	—	363 13 6
Sacks and canvas	—	87 7 0
Beer and stout	1,008 galls.	262 12 0
Fish, preserved	540⅓ doz. lbs.	177 12 9
Biscuits	7,942 lbs.	126 15 3
Soap	12 cwt. 28 lbs.	12 18 6
Pickles and sauces	130 doz. pints.	70 5 6
Oils	76 galls.	17 10 0
Paints	12¼ cwt.	27 0 0
Jams	315 doz. lbs.	98 16 0
Drapery	—	497 1 11
Tea	1,891 lbs.	111 2 8
Butter	2,138 lbs.	192 11 7
Soups	80 doz. lbs.	60 15 0

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons cwt. lbs.	£ s. d.
Onions and potatoes, &c.	5 17 14	164 16 9
Rope	356 lbs.	11 4 4
Timber	2,207 feet	12 15 3
Doors and sashes	2 doors 4 prs. sashes	6 14 0
Pipes (clay)	168 gross	27 19 6
„ (wooden)	6 doz.	2 14 0
Powder	22 lbs.	4 4 0
Shot	28 lbs.	1 0 0
Cartridges	2,350 lbs.	13 12 0
Cordials	96 doz.	13 14 0
Coffee	490 lbs.	29 18 0
Fruit (dried)	16 cwt. 47 lbs.	66 14 1
Ham and bacon	1,931 lbs.	111 5 0
Fruit (tinned)	95 doz. lbs.	55 11 6
Vegetables (preserved)	—	37 10 9
Oatmeal	2,328 lbs.	35 8 6
Candles	1,247 lbs.	40 9 4
Syrup and honey	—	31 8 6
Cheese	428	23 12 6
Medicines	—	179 17 6
Boots	202 pairs	64 19 3
	Tons cwt. lbs.	
Flour	19 4 12	291 12 0
Meat (salt)	17 15 102	510 19 0
„ (preserved)	14,784 lbs.	397 1 0
Kerosene	86 galls.	11 19 3
Vestas	85 gross	69 13 6
Beads	100 lbs.	5 0 0
Glass and crockery	—	19 0 0
Vinegar	37 galls.	10 11 0
Lime juice and cordials	19 galls.	11 1 0
Fish (dried)	4 cwt.	5 0 0
Cornflour	280 lbs.	7 6 8
Mustard and spices	168 lbs.	10 4 0
Sarsaparilla	4 galls.	5 0 0
Bitters	6 galls.	5 0 0
Coal tar	40 galls.	4 3 0
Cocoa	172 lbs.	33 12 6
Meats (potted)	47 lbs.	12 14 0
Sago and vermicelli	57 lbs.	1 3 5
Soda	10 lbs.	0 5 0
Acids	5 lbs.	0 12 6
Twine	60 lbs.	4 11 8
Corn and wheat	5 cwt.	2 17 4
Paper bags	56 lbs.	0 15 0
Coffee plants	100	5 0 0
Diving gear	2 cases	24 0 0
Cigars and cigarettes	4 boxes	1 8 0
Firearms	—	23 0 0
Paper and ink	—	0 10 6
Starch and blue	17 lbs.	0 13 0
Hops	12 lbs.	1 0 0
Printed forms	250	1 0 0
Tinware	—	4 15 0
Salt	24 lbs.	3 0 0
Sundries, miners' stores	—	43 5 0
Total		6,016 13 2

Exports from Samarai 1st January to 30th June 1889.

Article.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.
Pearl-shell - - - -	15¾ tons	1,510 0 0
Copra - - - -	76 „	550 0 0
Bêche-de-Mer - - -	29½ „	1,700 0 0
Gum - - - -	5 „	53 0 0
Tortoise-shell - - -	1 cwt. 50 lbs.	49 0 0
Gold - - -	334 oz. 16 dwt.	1,209 17 6
		5,071 17 6

I have, &c.
B. A. HELY.

His Honour Sir Wm. MacGregor, K.C.M.G.,
Administrator.

APPENDIX D.

Despatch reporting Tour of Inspection made by His Honour the Administrator of British New Guinea, extending from Manu-Manu on the Coast of the Possession to the Owen Stanley Range in the Interior.

Government House, Port Moresby,
July 1, 1889.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WHEN on the visit of inspection which extended to the district of Doura, as I reported in my Despatch of even date, I learned that a river named the Vanapa entered the inlet known as Galley Reach, and that it was probable this river would be found to run towards the great mountain ranges of the interior; and I then determined to devote some time to an ascent of the river in question, if found navigable by boats; and it appeared to me a favourable time for doing this then, as the steam yacht had not arrived from England, the schooner was still in Australia undergoing repairs, and I had no means, except a whaleboat, of travelling anywhere by water.

2. With this object in view I left Port Moresby on the 20th April in my boat manned with a native crew, accompanied by my staff, and proceeded along the coast to Manu-Manu, which was reached the following day. On the 22nd we entered one of the mouths of the Vanapa River, which opens into Galley Reach on

British New Guinea.

its eastern side, about five miles from Manu-Manu. This entrance to the river lies in a bend of the inlet where the coast is covered by mangrove swamps, and escapes observation unless one is searching expressly for it, which no doubt explains its being omitted altogether on many charts of this part of the country. We got some seven or eight miles up the river the first day, having the tidal water for about three or four miles; but beyond that point, in consequence of recent heavy thunderstorms inland, the river was swollen and muddy and the current against us strong.

As far as the tide ascends the river mangrove swamps grow on the banks, and the Nipa Palm in the river's edges; but beyond that the banks become 10 or 12 feet high, and are clothed with ilimo and other large trees, the soil being deep and rich, but whether liable to occasional flooding cannot at present be stated.

3. On the 23rd we continued our course up the river for about seven miles. During the afternoon we began to approach the first low hills in this river's course, and had to ascend two rapids, the first we had met. Below the rapids the river bottom contained many "snags," but not enough to impede the passage of the boat or even to make it dangerous going up against stream, but requiring very careful watching coming down the river. The course of the river we found to be very crooked, at times running north, at times due south. No natives, and hardly any trace of natives, were seen during these two first days of our journey. The nature of the country was much the same as that traversed the day before, there being a large amount of deep, flat, alluvial land on both sides of the river, of which, however, probably a large amount is wet and liable to be flooded periodically.

4. On the 24th we had much difficulty in poling and dragging the boat up some rapids, the current being very strong, and the river, though falling, still deep; so that it was difficult to see and avoid the large boulders that stud the bottom of the river at this point. On this day we entered between the first low ranges of hills, which seemed to be mainly composed of a sort of clay stone, and are covered by forest. There is no appearance of forest clearing or cultivation anywhere: nor any trace of natives. On this day we accomplished only about four miles, in spite of the best exertions.

5. On the 25th we continued our ascent, poling, pulling, or dragging the boat according to the nature of the different bends of the river. We passed a number of rapids, and by night found ourselves with hills on all sides of us. These are very steep, of a slaty nature, and covered by trees, which, from the extreme steepness, are not as a rule very large. One of our party had a narrow and lucky escape from a large snake on which he put his hand when picking up sticks to make our fire with. This reptile was cleverly noosed by a native, and the skin secured for our collection. We passed a large rock on the right bank of the river which seems to be quite exceptional in its formation in this part of the country. It would apparently make an extremely fine

building stone. Specimens were obtained for examination. It is a grey stone, full of crystalline needles, like manganite.

6. After we had pitched camp several members of our party went out to look for game, and in a short time two natives returned in a state of the greatest consternation, because they were certain they had seen the mark of a human foot in the forest not far from our camp, and soon afterwards a European returned to report that the river was crossed by a fine suspension bridge, about a quarter of a mile above our camp. I went at once to see and examine this structure, which is well worth a detailed description, occurring in such a locality and built by such a primitive people as the inland natives are in this district. At the spot where the bridge stands the river is narrowed by a rocky point that encroaches on the left bank from a steep hill immediately adjoining; advantage has been taken of this in building. The bridge, which is thus only about 70 yards long, is chiefly supported by a large banyan tree, which grows on the rock on the left bank about 20 feet from the water's edge; it starts from this tree at an elevation of about 50 feet above the pool below, descends in mid-stream to about 12 or 15 feet from the water, and rises to about 20 feet on the right bank, where it is suspended to a tree not sufficiently large or strong to receive the whole of this end of the bridge, and is therefore supplemented by a post put into the ground, and this again is strengthened by a cross-bar to the live tree, and fixed by stays extending backwards to the trees behind. The material employed is rattan cane. Of these, 15 are used to form supports, but as they have not all been long enough to cross the river, some of them have been joined by knotting. The floor of the bridge is formed of four of these canes, but as two appear to have been broken, the second pair have probably been laid down in effecting repairs. About 2 feet 6 inches from the floor there are two rattans on each side, and about 2 feet 3 inches above these again are three rattans on the lower, and four on the upper, side. They are not plaited or twisted, but are kept in position by split cane worked from the floor to the middle and top rattans, which serves the double purpose of connecting the several strands, and would probably prevent one from falling into the river should one stumble in crossing. A transverse section of the bridge would show it to be nearly V-shaped, but with the sides slightly rounded. The height of the V is about 5 feet, the width at the top about 3 feet 6 inches, and the distance of the middle strands from each other about 2 feet. The top strands are kept apart by a cross-stick, the ends of which are tied to the top of each strand. Suitable platform approaches have been built at the ends, and the whole structure is both strong and graceful. Five of our people crossed it at one time, and from all appearance it could have borne many more.

7. On the 26th the river had become narrower as we advanced, and we had to contend with some strong rapids. The hills are steep, but in this part there is some good timber. On a hill on the right

British New Guinea.

side of the river we saw a small platform of branches near the top of a high tree, evidently a "look-out" from which the natives of the district could obtain a view of anyone approaching; and from the point where we had lunch at midday some clearing for planting purposes and some bananas were visible on the left bank of the river; but we neither saw nor heard any natives. During the halt for lunch there occurred the first case of fever we had on the expedition, but it soon ceased under the usual treatment. The patient was one of the Europeans. The weather, favourable from the start, still continued so, rain falling only at night as the thunderstorms originating further inland gradually extended their radius.

8. On the 27th we found the rapids so strong and of so frequent occurrence that it was concluded it would not be advisable to continue to proceed in the boat beyond this day's journey, and accordingly a suitable camp was looked for, and found at a spot on the right bank of the river, where there was a small point of nearly level ground at the foot of a steep hill extending some distance inland. This place became our principal depôt for the expedition. By our estimate it is 40 miles from Manu-Manu by water, 35 miles of this being on the Vanapa itself. Its latitude, taken by Mr. Cameron, my private secretary, is 9° 7′ south.

9. I had now satisfied myself that it was possible to conduct an expedition of sufficient magnitude up the Vanapa River, and to find a way from our camp towards the interior. Mr. Cameron left camp on the morning of the 28th to proceed to Port Moresby for the necessary carriers, provisions, &c., and I remained at the camp with a party of two Europeans, two Polynesians, and two Papuans, intending to find out what our future route should be on the return of Mr. Cameron. I was able to trace the Vanapa River several miles upwards, to lay down a line of march towards the main mountain range, to obtain certain data with regard to the relative position of the mountains, &c., which proved to be of great value to us in our further journey. But these operations were greatly impeded by the ill-health of the party, none of whom, excluding myself, escaped fever. A thunderstorm began daily on the inland ranges about 1 or 2 p.m., and rain, sometimes in torrents, followed, reaching our camp early in the afternoon. The forenoons were sultry, and the forest very wet in the morning. Everywhere there were traces of natives, where they had been fishing or hunting. No natives were seen, nor could I observe anywhere any indication of permanent native residence except at a distance of several days' march from our camp. The furthest distance inland from the camp reached by me was between six and seven miles, and up to that point we laid out and cut a road through the "bush," but I had only one man with me up to that spot, such was the unsatisfactory condition of the health of my small party.

10. All the hills in this district were found to be of a slaty formation, with numerous thin veins of white quartz; in some of the creek beds there were a few large boulders of conglomerate,

and many smaller ones of basalt, but these were all isolated, the fixed rocks being without exception slaty. No trace of gold or other precious metal was found. The hills are so steep that the probabilities would be against finding, by the ordinary means of search, any trace of gold in the numerous creeks.

There is, however, a large quantity of timber in the district, which is clothed everywhere with dense forest, and the Vanapa River would afford an easy, cheap, and safe conveyance for it to the sea. Unfortunately, the trees were not in flower then, and it was not possible to obtain such specimens as would determine the nature of the different kinds of timber that could be obtained; but there are many cedar and ilimo trees, the latter of which is said to resist the white ant. The hills are so steep, and the gorges by which they are separated are so narrow, that there is no land fit for cultivation beyond 10 or 12 miles from the opening of the Vanapa River into Galley Reach. At our depôt camp this river is about 70 yards broad and contains a large volume of rapid running water; indeed there is no perceptible difference in its size near the mouth and at this camp, 35 miles up; we observed only two creeks worthy of notice on the way up opening into it.

11. About two and a half miles from camp we discovered, on 30th April, a rocky height on the first mountain we traversed (Mount Gleeson), whence a very fine view of all the mountains of the interior, right up to the summit of the Owen Stanley Range, could be seen. It was named, and is known to us, as "Jack's Rock," having been first noticed by one "Jack Tanna." It will be found marked on the chart of our travels, and is strongly recommended to future travellers as an excellent observing point, although its altitude is only about 1,000 feet.

12. On the 10th May, finding our provisions running short, and that the physical condition of the party precluded much addition to our fare from hunting, game being by no means abundant in this district, I sent one European, one Polynesian, and two Papuans down the river to meet Mr. Cameron, and to ascertain whether the necessary arrangements were being carried out. They went overland, holding the idea that it would be easy to get towards the coast in that way, and that it would be much safer than to go down the river on a raft, the only water conveyance that we could procure as Mr. Cameron had taken the boat with him.

13. On the 12th May Mr. Cameron arrived in camp with 15 men carrying supplies. He had left the main body of the expedition to come up the river in two whaleboats, and as the river was flooded he, fearing we should be quite out of provisions in camp, had left the boats and pushed on overland. He reported the overland journey as something dreadful, on account of the extremely rugged nature of the hills. They had seen traces of the four men that left our camp on the 10th, but did not meet them. Mr. Cameron's party, however, came into contact with the natives that live in the country in the vicinity of the bridge spoken

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

of in par. 6. Mr. Cameron described them as very noisy, at first frightened and suspicious, but as being after a little very friendly, offering food, and inviting his party to their villages.

14. On the morning of the 16th the two whaleboats arrived safely at the camp, the only damage sustained being that a plank of one had been split in coming up the river, but all the stores and provisions were in good order. The afternoon rains ceased totally about the 10th, and the river in about two or three days fell to its normal volume, which greatly facilitated the passage up of the two boats. The whole of the day after the arrival of the boats was spent in preparing the packs for the march inland, to commence next morning.

15. We left camp on the 17th, about 8 o'clock in the morning. There marched out, all told, 42 persons, four Europeans including myself, George Belford, a Samoan half-caste (a man of excellent character and well acquainted with this country, who proved of the greatest use to me), five Polynesians, and 32 Papuans. Of these one European and one Polynesian were engaged and paid by me privately, really more to strengthen my party than in any expectation of their procuring me much towards my private collections, which did not benefit largely by their labours as they were generally employed otherwise. All were in good health at the start, but there was such difficulty in transporting our baggage that every man, without respect of person, had to leave camp with all he could carry. Two Europeans, who were already too weak to accompany us, remained in camp. As the path had been cut for the first day's march, we covered about four miles before we camped in the afternoon at Exton Junction, where the Exton Creek enters the Vanapa River. We traversed the long spur of Mount Gleeson, its highest point being 1,292 feet, and had to cross another ridge about 800 feet high, while the altitude of our camp at Exton Junction was only about 300 feet. Some of our carriers had to do a double trip, as there were some three or four packs we could not bring with us from camp. For this they were promised a moderate addition to their pay, three sticks of trade tobacco each.

16. We left Exton Junction early on the morning of the 18th, and had at the start some very steep ridges to cross, which did not however, take us before lunch over any ground exceeding 700 or 800 feet in height. We passed several creeks in slate and quartz formation, which looked, especially one, very promising for gold, but no trace of that metal was found on washing gravel. At noon we halted at Taula Creek, at an altitude of 583 feet, for lunch, having walked over rough road, about two miles from Exton Junction. The same formation of slate and quartz was observable here, but the hill sides were very precipitous and the timber not, as a rule, large. We then ascended the steep western end of Guba Hill, which we crossed at about 1,000 feet, and towards 3 p.m. camped on a spur, about half a mile from its summit, having walked about three miles. The weather remained fine, and the health of the party was good. There were many

traces of the passage of natives along the ridges, where they had "blazed" trees and broken branches; but none were seen or heard.

17. As a native cannot carry more than about three weeks' food for himself, say, for 15 days of forward march and six days returning, it was necessary to detach a number of men from our party to fetch up supplementary supplies, as otherwise we should soon come to the end of our stock. Accordingly Peter Lifu was despatched from the top of Cæsar Hill with eight Kapakapa men, who proceeded on the morning of the 19th to Manu-Manu by boat, in order to bring up the river to our depôt there all stores left at the coast. Some of the Kapakapa men expressed great reluctance to leave me personally, and declared that they were extremely anxious to remain by me on this inland journey; but the truth was they were rejoicing to get away. Their departure made our packs very heavy for the next few days until our stores became lighter by consumption. On the 19th we marched about three-quarters of a mile along the top of Cæsar Hill, and then crossed at a height of about 500 feet a fine clear stream at about 20 yards broad, named by us the Atoa. Its bed was contained by rocks of slaty formation, but the boulders in its course were principally basaltic. At this creek we lunched, and Mr. Cameron went ahead with two men to find and cut a path. In the afternoon we ascended a spur of Mount Kowald, and, continuing through the same sort of country as previously traversed, encamped in the evening on the top of a ridge 1,500 feet high, having travelled about two and a half miles.

18. The 20th was memorable, as being the first time our native carriers expressed a desire to go no further. Some of them had to do double duty, as the packs were more than the reduced party could carry, and therefore some of the men had to return to the last camp to bring on to the new camp what had been left. The road in the forenoon was both steep and rough, crossing the ridges of Mount Kowald. Many reasons were now assigned why they should return. We had some men who had accompanied Mr. G. Hunter and Mr. Cuthbertson to Mount Obree in 1887, and they declared they were fed much better then than the "Kovana" fed them—that I gave them no meats, jams, or biscuits; others said they thought of their wives and children, to whom they wished to return; and some thought the road impassable. On this occasion Mr. Belford, by the exercise of patience, by threats and expostulation, managed to bring the whole company into camp on the north side of Mount Kowald, about 500 feet from the summit, so that it was not necessary for myself to return and bring them on. On this mountain were many traces of the wanderings of natives, but none were seen. The weather continued fine, but a little rain fell in the afternoon. We found, on taking stock in camp, that we had rice, on which the natives were almost exclusively fed, for 14 days. The temperature at this altitude, 2,750 feet, did not fall below 75° Fahr. We omitted lunch

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

on this day because there was no water convenient; but we found it preferable to have only two meals a day when on the march—a practice we followed regularly afterwards on the outward journey.

19. We required the whole of the 21st to descend the north side of Mount Kowald, at the foot of which we camped, on the right bank of the Vanapa River, which is here very rapid, in a rough and rocky bed, but only slightly smaller than at the depôt camp. On the march down this mountain a fresh source of alarm arose for our native carriers. A small native village was seen in a northerly direction on a hill some five or six miles from us. The desire to turn back was universal. When Mr. Belford and Mr. Cameron were out of camp looking for a ford or the means of crossing the river, the two chiefs, Kebokanomo and Vale ni Koro, came to me and said the "boys," meaning thereby all the natives and more especially themselves, wished to turn back, because no man could ever reach the great mountain. I asked them whether they had seen the village of the mountaineers. They replied in the affirmative, and I said I should certainly not give them permission to return nor food; but if they went I should go over to the mountaineers, when they would have to reckon with the latter and with myself, not as friends. In a very short time I received repeated assurances that "all would go forward: none "would go back." Mount Kowald was of the usual slaty formation. It contains a large quantity of fine straight timber, but not many trees of great size. On it we killed two or three snakes, a matter worthy of mention only because we saw none further inland. The river at our camp, at the foot of Mount Kowald, we found to be about 800 feet above sea level. In the afternoon and evening there was a thunderstorm further inland, which deluged us with rain and caused the river to rise three or four feet, a circumstance that rendered our crossing it next morning a matter of some difficulty, as several people suffered here from fever. Our party was weakened, but we had no serious case.

20. On the morning of the 22nd Mr. Belford volunteered to cross the river and build a raft on the other bank with the assistance of the Polynesians, there being good timber for that purpose on a small shingly plateau about 400 yards up the river from our camp. The river, which was muddy and running very strong, containing many rocks and boulders seen and unseen, was not an inviting one to cross by swimming. Belford, with a line to be used in pulling tools, canes, &c., across, was the first to take the water, and in about two hours had constructed an excellent raft of light wood, which would have served very well to transport in a short time all our carriers, who, being mountaineers, were not swimmers, as well as our baggage; but the rattan by which it was being pulled over from the left to the right bank gave way before it was more than half-way across, when the raft was hurried down stream by the current and carried off. Belford and Cæsar Lifu were on the raft at the time, but could do nothing to save it, and had to jump into the rapid stream and swim to the side where

they could effect a landing. Between one and two o'clock another raft was prepared, and we were by four o'clock all safely encamped on the other side with our baggage dry and in good condition. But we had only covered two miles and a quarter in two days, although those two days had been very fatiguing.

21. On the 23rd we travelled about three miles, at first along the left bank of the Vanapa, and then up one of the spurs and crest of Mount Belford. It was hoped that we might be able to keep in the channel of the river for at least two or three miles, so as to reach the western end of Mount Musgrave, thus doubling Mount Belford instead of having to cross it; but it was found that the river bed was narrow, that at short intervals there were very deep pools, confined between the ends of mountain ridges that project their heads, bare and solid rocks, into the river at each side; and past these it was impossible to get without leaving the bed of the river. The first one of these deep pools we came to we evaded by a laborious ascent of an exceedingly steep ridge several hundred feet high. When we were rounding the second one in similar fashion, we found we had got so high on the spur that I declined to descend again to the river bed feeling sure it was much better for us to keep on the crest of the ridge and get as far from the river as possible. We therefore cut our path along the crest of Mount Belford and camped in the afternoon at an altitude of 2,530 feet. Mount Belford does not differ in formation from Mount Kowald and the other hills already noticed. It is exclusively of a slaty nature, with thin quartz veins interspersed. It is not a rugged mountain, speaking comparatively; it contains a large quantity of fine trees, and is more frequented by birds than any mountains crossed by us, unless perhaps Mount Kowald. It appears from the presence of native paths and camp sites to be a favourite hunting ground; but no natives reside on it or plant on it. We had some light showers of rain here but no thunderstorm.

22. As it appeared desirable to get further east before approaching the main range, it was deemed well to follow further along the crest of Mount Belford, whence it was hoped a spur might be found on its northern side that would lead us to Mount Musgrave, and our march was therefore continued along the top of Mount Belford during the whole of the 24th. By about 3 p.m. we had come about three miles, and I began to think it inadvisable to proceed further in that direction. Unfortunately we were completely enveloped in mist and could not see the next range. We camped at a small hunting-house—a thatched "lean-to," with a cooking oven, consisting of a hole in the ground and about half a bushel of small slate stones showing quartz veins, a kind of stone that would not be selected for such a purpose were stones of a different sort obtainable. The altitude of this native camp was 3,500 feet. The thermometer stood at 74° Fahr. at 3 p.m.; but towards morning we felt it for the first time on this expedition decidedly cold, although the thermometer did not show less than

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

65° Fahr. The weather was wet, but the rain that fell was not heavy. We saw much fine timber on this day's march.

23. On the 25th one European and all the natives of the party except eight turned back to proceed to the depôt camp on the river to meet Peter Lifu and the Kapakapa men on their return from Manu-Manu, and to help them to bring on the additional stores. Those remaining now comprised two Europeans besides myself, Mr. Belford, two Polynesians, and eight Papuans. Our provisions consisted of five bags of rice and one bag of flour, with some tea, a few tins of meat, and one ham; with these things and camp furniture we were again overloaded. Mr. Cameron laid out a track for us which we cut down the north side of Mount Belford, but it was an exceedingly bad one, extremely steep in some places, and very rough at others. We got only a few hundred yards beyond the creek at the foot of Mount Belford, and had to camp in a wet, gloomy, very narrow gorge, where we were soon enveloped in mist and rain. We had descended only about 1,000 feet, and had not put more than a short mile of road behind us. One redeeming point of the country travelled over on this day's march was the presence of some fine botanical objects; there were tall and graceful wild bananas; a pepper, nearly of the kind used as the national beverage in Fiji and elsewhere, but here growing as a tree 20 or 30 feet high; and several other things that, though rare and valuable as specimens, were too bulky and too heavy for transport. Very noticeable was a remarkably fine rhododendron, dried specimens of which were obtained.

24. About three-quarters of a mile from our camp of the 25th we came next morning, at an altitude of 2,635 feet, to the Joseph River, a fine mountain stream of about 20 yards broad, running along the southern foot of Mount Musgrave. Here we were able to dry our soaked baggage, and to get a thoroughly enjoyable cold bath, and it afforded some of us great satisfaction to pick out of our skin the ticks that had been securing a lodgment therein for the last two or three days, Mount Belford being more frequented by these pests than any place I have any experience of. The scrub itch insect, which had been causing us great discomfort, was, however, not so easily got rid of as the ticks, and it may be doubted that all those that attached themselves to the expedition are yet extinct. In the afternoon we camped on a spur leading us right up towards the crest of Mount Musgrave, at a height of 3,380 feet. We had been lucky enough to select a spur up the crest of which went a native hunting path. Such a path is not passable to men with packs, but it requires less cutting than a ridge on which there is no trace of a track, and it gives a direction, which also saves time. At 7.30 p.m. the temperature in this camp was 77° Fahr., but the position was a sheltered one. It rained a little during the night, and everything was enveloped in fog. At daylight next morning the temperature was 73°.

25. On the 27th we continued the ascent of the ridge, following the native path; but, unfortunately, our progress was slow, as

most of our carriers had to perform a double journey to bring on all our baggage. About 10 a.m. Mr. Cameron, myself, and the two men clearing our path, got to the top of the ridge, about 5,000 feet high. There we found a large hunting house, called by us "Goodwin Lodge." It had evidently been recently occupied; a native dog was running about, but no natives were seen, nor did any respond to our shouts for them. The house was about 25 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 6 feet high; the roof was covered by the leaves of a dwarfish pandanus, common there. The temperature at "Goodwin Lodge" at 10 a.m. was 71° Fahr. The ground was soaked with wet, and, as the sun was shining right on the clearing at the end of the house, and the earth there was warm, it seemed to be literally alive with leeches. There was the small wiry-like leech about three-fourths of an inch long, and the larger as thick as a goose quill and about 2 inches in length. Both kinds were present in hundreds and thousands. Mosquitoes were in swarms at the same place, so that we did not remain long at "Goodwin Lodge." Fortunately for us the crest we had reached turned round towards the west and north, and led us toward the main crest of Mount Musgrave, which was reached on the next day's march. We camped at an altitude of 5,588 feet, on the top of the ridge, having walked about four miles, the unusually great distance being due to the presence of the good native path we followed. Fog began to close round us before noon. Most of the trees at this elevation seemed to belong to the myrtaceous family; they are not of large size. Towards evening the temperature was 65° Fahr., and a little rain fell. During the night we could hear the sounds of native festivity and dancing, apparently proceeding from a large number of people some two or three miles north-west of us, the direction in which it appeared the native path we had followed proceeded. As we had covered more ground than usual during the day, Mr. Belford and the native carriers slept in the camp below which we had formed the previous evening, to bring on their second loads next day, so that having to wait for them we were unable to shift camp on the 28th. Mr. Cameron and myself took advantage of this halt to follow up the native path some distance, and before proceeding much more than a quarter of a mile we were able to obtain a good view of the Owen Stanley Range, and to get angles, &c., from the western end of the crest of Mount Musgrave. From this point we saw a large native village on one of the ridges on the south-west foot of Mount Knutsford. Mr. Cameron, who is a qualified and experienced surveyor, was of opinion that it would take as long to go from Mount Musgrave to Mount Victoria as it had taken to come to Mount Musgrave, although the distance in a straight line was not more than 13 miles from the western end of Mount Musgrave to the summit of Mount Victoria.

It appeared then to be worthy of consideration whether the easiest way of reaching the highest point of the Owen Stanley Range would not be to ascend Mount Knutsford and cross from its summit, rounding the head of the Vanapa River, to the main

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

range, along the top of which it appeared possible to proceed to Mount Victoria, a route that subsequent events compelled us to adopt. At that distance, however, it was not possible to see how extremely steep are the two great spurs that come from the summit of Mount Victoria down to the Vanapa River, and up one of which it was hoped we might force our way. It was therefore determined that we should proceed eastward along the crest of Mount Musgrave until nearly opposite Mount Victoria, and then look for a ridge on the north side of Mount Musgrave leading down in the desired direction.

26. On our way back to camp we heard in it the characteristic gabble of excited Papuans, and knew at once we were receiving a visit from the natives. We found there only one native, a man with whom we were soon on friendly terms, and we learned that another had gone to fetch some more of his countrymen. Four young men soon arrived, and we, without difficulty, induced them to bring more natives to see us and to fetch us a pig and some native food, which we received before night from a score of natives —men, youths, and boys. We were visited by these people, sometimes by 40 or 50 at once, as long as we remained in the vicinity, and received from them sufficient native food to be of great service to us; and throughout we were on the most friendly terms with them, sometimes returning their visits, which they always invited us to do. They speak a language that has strong affinities with that of the Koiari people on the one hand and with that of the people between them and "Doura" on the other; that is a Papuan dialect. They are physically stronger than the coast men, perhaps a little shorter, having long and strong bodies, but generally shorter and more muscular legs. They do not tattoo, nor wear nose nor ear ornaments. The older men wear caps made of the best of cuscus fur, with a frontal ornament made of white shells ground down to thin plates and then sewn together, and with cheek pieces of black cassowary feathers. Others wear caps that are more elaborate, but less picturesque, trimmed with boars' tusks and the teeth of dogs.

Youths generally wear on their heads a piece of native-made cloth, apparently manufactured from the paper mulberry, into which they gather their copious mops of hair. On the breast they wear a piece of network, with a small mesh, about 8 or 10 inches deep, and long enough to extend rather more than half-way round the ribs. It is fastened behind by strings from its four corners. They all wear the perineal band, as worn at the eastern end of the Possession; but in addition to that every man and boy is clothed in a girdle of paper mulberry cloth about 10 or 12 inches deep, but cut up into lappets, and over this they wear in front as an apron a small net bag, about 9 inches or a foot in length. On the neck, legs, and arms they wear rings of cane, sometimes plain, sometimes plaited or twisted. Their features are decidedly good, their faces indicating more character and strength than those of the average coast men. In not a few the cheekbones are rather broad and

prominent. The nose is generally of the Semitic type, the nostrils either not arched or much less so than is usual in Papuans, and the chin and underjaw are also stronger. They possess all the volubility of the Papuan race, are less shy than tribes that have seen more of white men, but are apparently superstitious and easily frightened. They informed us that they used both the bow and the spear, but we never saw one of them with a weapon, and I could not induce them to bring any to camp; not, as it appeared, as if they mistrusted us, but seemingly doubting whether it might not be misunderstood should any of them with arms in their hands meet any of our party away from camp. It is much to be regretted that, personally, I was such a short time near them that I was able to obtain from them only a brief list of words of their dialect. They always left our camp before nightfall. They are fond of, and will give food in exchange for, salt, beads, and cutlery. Tobacco they do not prize greatly, as they grow very good tobacco themselves. I procured from them a small parcel of tobacco seed, also some peas and beans they cultivate, all of which will be forwarded to the Agricultural Department of Queensland. They grow yams, sweet potatoes, and several varieties of bananas, and have abundant food.

27. On the 29th we were able to resume the ascent of the crest of Mount Musgrave, along which we proceeded about two miles on this day, and camped at 7,180 feet. Here the temperature was 70° at noon, but fell at night below 60°. We found the climate raw and foggy. Everything is draped in moss, which gives the forest a soft and lonely aspect; and at that time all objects were saturated with moisture. It seemed strange that in such a place mosquitoes should make themselves troublesome. Water for culinary purposes was not at first very good or abundant; but a copious supply was discovered a day or two afterwards, and this point was made a permanent camp. At first, too, there was great difficulty in getting fuel to burn, but it was soon found that some of the green timber burned far better than fallen wood. In the afternoon we were visited by a large number of natives, who assisted our people in transporting the baggage, and brought food for sale. Endeavour was made to induce three of them to accompany us to the Owen Stanley Range. The man that appeared to have the greatest influence among them showed much respect for my authority, and was very frank and friendly. But when it was intimated to him, by words and signs, that I wished him to go with us, he made what were understood to be very complimentary speeches; but they always ended with a pantomime of signs and expressions which seemed to indicate that his legs were not strong enough; that his breath was too short, and that it was impossible to get up to the tops of the high mountains. Neither he nor any of his people were understood to make any objections on superstitious grounds; and it may be stated here that no Papuan on this expedition ever expressed on religious scruples any fear or disinclination to ascend the Owen Stanley Range. The

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

chief of these people and two young men finally appeared to consent to go with me; and I understood the chief to say and mean he was going home to fill his net-bag with food for the journey; and they received small presents on this understanding. But as they did not arrive before we started next day, which, however, we subsequently learned to be impossible on account of distance, we did not wait for them; and we had no guide beyond this.

28. Mount Musgrave does not differ in formation from Mount Belford; but, somewhat to our surprise, we found it to be composed of slate and quartz right to the top. Our path was crossed at several places, between 6,000 and 7,000 feet, by well-marked veins of white quartz. There is much fine timber growing below 6,000 feet, but above that altitude the trees are smaller, and often very crooked. The summit is narrow at some places, but not so rocky as its appearance at a distance led our party to expect.

29. On the 30th we advanced eastward along the crest of Mount Musgrave, but after reaching a height exceeding 8,000 feet, and finding that there was no prospect of meeting with any spur running towards Mount Victoria, and fearing that the greater the altitude reached on Mount Musgrave the greater would be the difficulties of descent, it was determined to retrace our steps for about a mile, and to descend on the north side of the mountain in the best way we could, as there was no ridge to guide us. We accordingly left the mountain top at 7,180 feet, and cut a path almost right down its northern face. We camped at about 6,000 feet at half-past four, completely enveloped in mist, and unable to find our way further on account of a line of precipitous rocks which crossed our path at right angles. The temperature in the morning was 60° Fahr., at noon 67°, and at night about 58°. We had some rain during the night, but no thunder; thunderstorms were now becoming much less frequent, being no longer of daily occurrence as they had been a month previously. On the morning of the 31st Mr. Cameron reported, after examining the ground all round, that there was no way down the mountain. I went to examine the rocks below, and found a place where it appeared possible to get down, and I therefore returned to camp to set the people in motion. But I was at once informed that the Papuans would go no further, as they wished to carry back one of their number who was sick. We had only eight Papuans with us, two of whom I found to be ill, one of fever, the other of headache. They promptly received medicine, and were ordered back to camp; a third one, who said he too had fever, was cured instantaneously by a dose of quinine, and within two or three minutes the six remaining carriers were under way in obedience to my order. A road was cut down the rocks and precipices, but it was the steepest one without exception I have ever seen traversed by carriers. Mr. Cameron overtook me about noon to say that the carriers could not and would not descend; but they made their appearance about an hour later with all their packs. By dint of great exertion we descended in this day's march 1,700 feet. We camped on the edge of a small creek at an altitude

of about 4,300 feet, everyone excessively tired and greatly discouraged by the small progress made.

30. When we left camp on the 1st June Mr. Cameron, at his own wish, returned to the camp on Mount Musgrave, as, not feeling very well, he did not think it prudent to go further on the journey towards the main range. He was, therefore, directed to ascend during my absence the highest point of Mount Musgrave and Mount McIlwraith, in order to determine the watersheds of the Vanapa River, and to map out the Brown River, &c. He reached the summit of Mount Musgrave, which he found to be 9,150 feet high, but did not cross the ravines that divide it from the more lofty and precipitous Mount McMcIlwraith. My own party now consisted of Mr. Belford, two Polynesians, and six Papuans. Proceeding across a succession of steep cliffs and rugged gorges, we, by 10 o'clock, reached a clearing, on which there had been a native garden a year or two before, and after experiencing great difficulty in descending the steep rocks at the foot of Mount Musgrave, we reached the Vanapa River about noon, at the foot of Mount Knutsford. The river was here not much more than half the size it was when we last parted from it at the west end of Mount Belford. It ran west by south; had a channel about 30 to 40 yards wide, but was so full of immense boulders (of the same formation as the rocks of Mount Victoria, as was found later on), some of them being as large as a house, that it was difficult to see fully the volume of water, as much of it ran below these great rocks and was invisible. It was our hope that we should be able to proceed up the bed of the river to the foot of Mount Victoria, the nearest end of the lowest spur of which was judged to be three miles distant; but after examining the river-bed the men declared that without packs they might perhaps be able to find their way, with some danger, up the channel, but that it was completely beyond them to do so when loaded. Another consideration induced me to give up the idea of marching along the river-bed—a single thunderstorm would swell the river so as to completely cut off from us for some time the possibility of advance or retreat. The point at which we reached the river was at the foot of one of the leading spurs of Mount Knutsford, and it was manifestly an undertaking of such difficulty to cross, parallel to the river, the foot either of this great mountain or of Mount Musgrave so as to reach the nearest part of Mount Victoria, that we saw ourselves compelled to adopt the plan that had suggested itself before when we were on the west end of the ridge of Mount Musgrave, viz., to ascend Mount Knutsford. It is difficult to believe that it should have been considered impossible to traverse the three miles which, at this spot, separated us from Mount Victoria; with time no doubt we could have effected it, searching our way through the dense undergrowth, and up and down the mighty rocks that would have lain in our path; but our experience in descending the north side of Mount Musgrave created a fear that the greatly higher and more precipitous Mount Victoria would present ridges too steep to be accessible. This could,

however, only be a matter of inference, as that mountain was completely cut off from view at the point where we then were in the confined river-bed.

31. We had considerable difficulty in crossing the Vanapa on account of the quantity of water and the rapidity of the current. Mr. Belford, however, bridged it in about a couple of hours, in a manner that did great credit to him as a man of resource; but there are not many people that would wish to cross that bridge often, a fall from which near the right bank would be certain death, as it there crosses a waterfall, where the powerful stream dashes down into an eddying pool full of great sharp rocks. The others walked across it; I crawled over it. The altitude of the river where crossed was 2,790 feet, and the temperature at the time, mid-day, 68° Fahr. Immediately on effecting the passage we were at the foot of Mount Knutsford, the first mountain we touched connected directly with the Owen Stanley Range. We ascended about 500 feet from the river, over a quarter of mile of road, and then camped. From this camp we could see the numerous gardens and garden houses on the north side of Mount Musgrave belonging to the natives that visited us; these gardens were from two to four miles distant from us in a straight line, and the fact that we camped at a halting place of the natives containing two rather well-built houses convinced us that their villages could not be nearer than the gardens we saw. We had no rain, but the mountains were partially covered by fog from an early hour in the afternoon.

32. On the 2nd we continued our ascent, being fortunate enough to find a native path which we could follow now and then, it being distinct wherever the ridge was quite narrow, but not traceable when it widened out.

A temperature of 69° Fahr. was marked before sunrise, and by 10 a.m. it had risen to 77°, at about 5,000 feet. We camped for the night at an altitude of about 6,500 feet, where the temperature at 3 p.m. was 72°, and at 6 p.m. 67°. The road traversed was estimated at two miles. Fog enveloped us completely by the middle of the afternoon, but we had no rain. There was some difficulty in getting water, which had to be carried a long way up very steep ground. It was found that the geological formation was not essentially different from that on Mount Musgrave, slaty rocks and quartz cropping out here and there along the line of march. The forest at this altitude had the myrtaceous appearance noted on the higher regions of Mount Musgrave; and here, as there, the trees were not, as a rule, large. It was still necessary to keep one or two men employed to clear a path for us with large knives. Game there was none, except a few mountain pigeons, and they were not easily got and could not be counted on. In the forenoon we heard some natives shouting in the forest a mile or two on the left, in the direction of their villages, but they did not overtake us.

33. Next day, 3rd June, we started at 7.30 a.m., and by noon estimated that we had travelled one mile, when we were com-

pletely enveloped in dense fog; temperature, 64° Fahr. Very noticeable was the death-like stillness of this place. Hardly a single bird uttered a "call," not a leaf rustled, and the men spoke in whispers when they spoke at all, which was seldom. The feeling of loneliness was increased by the striking appearance of the trees; roots, trunks, and branches were wrapped up in thick coverings of moss, even the leaves were not free from it. Everything was soaking wet, and the fog, especially when the clouds lifted a little from the ravines or broke on the rugged spurs, made the crags and ridges look much more formidable and inaccessible than they really were, and forced one to think that one should never be able to continue the upward march next day. We camped in the afternoon on a ridge so narrow that it barely afforded width enough for the path. The altitude was about 8,300. An hour or so before we halted we were gratified to hear our native friends shouting to us not far behind. They stopped short, however, at the foot of an exceedingly steep and difficult ascent on which we were then engaged, but called out, urging us to return, as we could not go further, inviting us to come to their villages, and they would feed us with sugar-cane, pigs, yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, and everything they had. We replied we would visit them on our way back to the coast, but never interrupted our march, which at the time was up the face of a spur not far from the perpendicular, quite inaccessible to men with packs but for the moss-swathed trees that grew there, through the roots, trunks, and branches of which we crawled, climbed, and dragged ourselves up, often walking entirely off the ground on the roots and gnarled trunks of the stunted trees as if crossing a mangrove swamp. We could find no water at this camp, but fortunately we were able to catch rain-water enough to cook about half a meal of rice for the native carriers, but not enough to make any tea for the others. This was the last shower of rain we had on the outward journey.

On the morning of the 4th a Polynesian whose feet were very sore and three Papuans were sent back to Mr. Cameron's camp on Mount Musgrave, as it was becoming plain that my party was too large for the provisions remaining. We left 20 pounds of rice hid in a secure place near this camp. Our total armament and provisions now amounted to two shot guns and one revolver, 50 pounds of rice, 30 pounds of flour, about six pounds of ham, and about the same quantity of salt beef. The party consisted of myself, Belford, Joe Fiji, and three Papuans. We expected to be overtaken in a day or two by about half-a-dozen carriers with supplementary stores, but we could not wait for their arrival. As there was no water procurable, we had to start without any breakfast. After we had gone about three-quarters of a mile we came to a native hunting camp, a "lean-to" roof, suitable for about three men, provided with three cooking places, each of which consisted of an excavation in the ground about 18 inches wide and nearly the same depth, with small stones sufficient to half fill it. A halt was made here as we felt sure there must be water somewhere in the vicinity of such a camp. We did not proceed further

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

that day, as it was thought prudent to bake bread sufficient for two or three days lest there should be no water higher up. The altitude of this native camp was 8,815 feet, the temperature at noon in the shade 63° Fahr. We were evidently about to emerge from the zone of moss and fog; the trees were larger and straighter, and moss was far less abundant than from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, and we found that we were just at the upper edge of the afternoon fog that had settled down so dense on the mossy region immediately below us.

35. On the following day, 5th June, we first came into contact, at an altitude of about 9,000 feet, with an undergrowth of bamboo. At first this did not cause us much trouble or delay, as the stems were generally about an inch in diameter, and therefore easy to cut; but about 500 feet higher the bamboo changed its character; the stems grew as close together as wheat in a field, but of such length that they often ran completely over the tops of, and entirely covered up, large trees. To cut a path through this was tedious and tiresome. This kind of bamboo met us off and on until we left Mount Knutsford, and beyond that, fortunately, there were none. The zones of moss and mist end together; a dry and fine climate begins with the bamboo, and it is never lost until one descends again, at 8,000 to 8,500 feet, into fog and moss.

36. At 2 p.m. on the 6th June we reached the summit of Mount Knutsford, which Mr. Cameron makes 11,100 feet high. It is not until within some 500 feet of the summit of this mountain that Alpine plants and flowers are met with. The top of the mountain ends in two masses of rock, each about 100 feet high, that are isolated and stand about a quarter of a mile apart; a smaller and lower mass of rock lies about half-way between them. These peaks were accessible, and were found to be covered by an Alpine flora; but as the area was limited, so was the number of species and varieties obtainable. Indeed, this great mountain is very disappointing in regard to its flora, as, except above 10,000 feet, little grows besides trees, moss, and bamboo. I believe with some confidence that I obtained specimens of almost every Alpine plant that grows on the mountain. The quartz and slate formation extends to the top. The climate was magnificent, dry and cold, between 60° and 70° during the middle of the day in the partial shade of the forest there, and as low as 45° to 40° at night and early morning. Here we were in the afternoon clear above the great masses of snow-white cumulose clouds which lay below us some two or three thousand feet and completely cut off all view of the hills and valleys beneath.

The upper surface of this vast, ocean-like cloudy expanse was almost dazzling in its whiteness, extending its rugged masses, more uneven than the jagged peaks of any mountain land, so far that nothing could be seen beyond their horizon. These great cumuli lay apparently perfectly still, like an arctic world of frozen snow; but every now and then small jets of mist shot with arrow speed up narrow ravines right to the summit of the mountain as if projected upwards by the weight of the superincumbent cloudy

matter forming the upper layer of the stratum. These clouds are formed locally and are not brought up by the south-east wind, from the force of which they are protected by the Owen Stanley Range. The stratum is usually about 4,000 to 5,000 feet thick. The tops of the higher mountains on the south and south-east, Mount Service, Mount Morehead and Mount McIlwraith, projected above this stormy-like sea of cloud clear, bold, and dry, at least 2,000 feet; Mount Victoria towered 4,000 or 5,000 feet clear over it, and on the west and north Mount Griffith, Mount Douglas, and other striking heights, which will be mentioned later on, reared their lofty crests several thousand feet above mist and damp into one of the finest climates on the globe.

37. On the evening of the 6th some of my party were certain they had heard guns fired on the slopes below us, from which it was inferred that those who were to bring us additional stores were close at hand. So sure were they of this that I was induced to remain at the top of Mount Knutsford the whole of the 7th to permit of the party behind joining us. But no one appeared, and I therefore lost a day except in so far that I was able from the peaks of Mount Knutsford to select the route to be followed to the top of Mount Victoria, and had an opportunity of completing my collection of the Knutsford flora, and of filling in geographical details in the forenoon before the country below was covered by its pall of cloud. In the morning a clear view could be had from the summit of all that lay between Mount Knutsford and the south coast. The native community we had come into contact with on Mount Musgrave, it was clearly seen, have nearly all their gardens and garden-houses on the north side of that mountain, but the permanent villages, four in number, were distinctly visible, three on the lower spurs of Mount Knutsford and one on Mount Griffith, at a height not exceeding in any case 4,000 or 4,500 feet. This occupation on the two mountains last-named is the only representation of human habitation seen on any of the mountains of the Owen Stanley Range.

38. At about 10 a.m. the low country began to become obscured by small points of clouds, rising up sporadically, and somewhat later the view presented would have satisfied the wildest imagination as a picture of chaos, for ocean, earth, and sky seemed so thoroughly commingled and confused that no idea whatever could be formed where one began or another ended.

39. The top of Mount Knutsford is the best point from which to note the rise and course of the River Vanapa. Nothing can possibly be more clear than that it drains the whole of the south side of the entire Owen Stanley Range from Mount Victoria to Mount Lilley. Indeed besides that draining it carries almost nothing else to the ocean, as all the water it receives after reaching the north side of Mount Kowald is insignificant. At the north-west end of Mount Musgrave it divides into two great branches; one runs west and drains the eastern slopes of Mount Cameron, the east and south side of Mount Lilley, and the south sides of Mount Thynne and Mount Griffith: this branch cannot be much

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

less than the eastern branch. The latter lies at first between Mount Knutsford and Mount Musgrave, and then for a short distance separates Mount Knutsford from Mount McIlwraith, until a projecting spur of Mount Victoria divides them. This branch then splits up into five distinct streams; the first one lies between Mount McIlwraith and Mount Morehead, the second between the latter and Mount Victoria, the third between Mount Victoria and the southern aspect of Mount Douglas, the fourth between Mount Douglas and Winter Height, and the fifth, the principal branch and real head of the Vanapa River, flows between Mount Griffith and Mount Knutsford on the south and that part of the main ridge of the Owen Stanley Range called Winter Height on the north. From the west end of Mount Musgrave to the sea this river is well suited for the transport of timber; beyond that point its channel is so full of immense stones and boulders that it would afford no water carriage.

40. No other river receives any part of the drainage of the southern aspect of the Owen Stanley Range. Between Mount Victoria and the Brown River there lie the great mountains, Mount Service, Mount Morehead, and Mount McIlwraith, all from 10,000 to 11,000 feet high; and to these perhaps should be added, although the Brown does not approach them, Mount Musgrave 9,150 feet, and Mount Belford, about 6,000. As we could not see what course the Brown takes, a European was sent up the Laroki to make a traverse of that river, and to look for the Brown, and he has reported that the latter is a branch of the Laroki, and describes the Laroki itself as being much smaller than the Vanapa.

41. We were now left with six days' food, and there was no appearance of any more reaching us. Our three native carriers were very much disquieted, and volunteered to Belford the information that their countrymen who had gone back for supplies had informed them before they left that they would run away during the night, and would not return. Mr. Belford was directed to tell them they were lying, and that I was determined to proceed whether we received more food or not. To myself they offered no objection, and at starting no demur was expressed.

It was, however, not without some amount of anxiety that a forward march was ordered on the morning of the 8th. I had estimated that we could make our six days' food last for ten days, and that by forced marches we could double the head of the Vanapa and reach the top of Mount Victoria in four or five days, and return to where we were in three, whence in one day we could reach the 26 lbs. of rice we had left at the third camp on Mount Knutsford. Belford gallantly offered to accompany me himself if there was not sufficient food to take on the whole party, or if they should refuse to go; but I decided to carry forward the total number of my five companions; not omitting even Joe Fiji, his objectionably rapacious appetite notwithstanding. We accomplished fully five miles in a north-westerly direction along the summit of Mount Knutsford, and camped on a small creek that divides it on the north-west side from Mount Griffith. About

9 a.m. next day we crossed the Vanapa for the last time on the outward journey. The altitude of this crossing was 10,130 feet, the temperature 59°. It is even there a fine mountain stream about five yards broad, with a very rocky bed. On crossing we began the ascent of the central ridge of the Owen Stanley Range. At this point there are several large spaces on the face of the mountain where grass grows freely, but on which there are no trees whatever. As wild dogs were howling in the vicinity, some of our people expected to find natives at these clearings, but I could see no trace whatever of human presence except our own, either past or present. Mr. Belford, when in advance of the three men who were carrying all our food, set fire to the grass as a signal to those behind who had lingered about the river and must have been fully half a mile from us. To my great alarm the fire in a few minutes covered scores of acres and swept like a tornado in a straight course towards the river, whence our men were coming. I feared they should have to throw away their packs and run for their lives, but very fortunately there was a wet strip along the middle of this great grassy patch which did not burn, and along this they soon appeared, greatly to my relief. The surrounding forest growth, although it looked very dry, did not burn. Early in the afternoon we reached the top of the great ridge at the point named Winter Height, which has an altitude of 11,882 feet; and about 5 p.m. we camped, after having walked about five miles, on the lowest part of the great central ridge at a point where the top of a glen on the south side meets the top of a glen on the north side, forming the lowest part of the central portion of the Owen Stanley Range, to which has been given the name of Dickson Pass. Its height is 10,884 feet, and it divides Mount Douglas from Winter Height.

42. In our camp at Dickson Pass the morning temperature before sunrise was 44°, and at 8 a.m. it had risen to 55°. the forest here was mainly composed of cypress. We had water near. We passed over the top of Mount Douglas, 11,796 feet, and had an opportunity of picking strawberries there; they were not of large size, excellent in flavour, but not quite ripe. At 5 p.m. we pitched camp, after a march of about five to six miles, some four hours' march from the top of Mount Victoria, the name I have given to the highest crest of the great Owen Stanley Range. Soon after we had camped there arrived two Polynesians, George and Cæsar Lifu, and four Papuans, sent by Mr. Cameron to bring us supplies. They had brought rice and flour, which we could manage without, but of meat, of which we had practically none, they did not bring an ounce. Indeed it was clear that their enthusiasm to get to the top of the "Great Mountain" was greater than their consideration for us, for even the rice and flour they had left on the way, and now they joined us with empty hands and empty stomachs, and we had to share our scanty stock with them. They did not, however, return so light, as geological and botanical specimens had to be transported.

British New Guinea.

43. At about 11 a.m. of the 11th June I reached the top of the north-west peak of Mount Victoria, and at once set to work to collect geographical data and botanical and other specimens. I do not feel competent to pronounce on the geological formation of Mount Victoria; the specimens will be duly examined by competent authority hereafter, but it may be mentioned that a few hundred feet from the top of the highest crest I saw the largest vein of quartz I have seen in the Possession, about 15 inches thick. There are no trees on this mountain within 1,500 feet of the top, and but few bushes grow within 1,000 feet of the summit. The flora is disappointing, except as regards grasses, which were numerous, far beyond my expectation. There are probably few species or varieties of flowers or grasses of which we have not brought away examples, but the total will, it is to be feared, be surprisingly small. There are several varieties of daisies, buttercups, forget-me-nots, heaths, &c. There are very few birds, the most noteworthy being a lark, only one specimen of which was obtained by my private collector, Joe Fiji; but to my great disappointment I learned the day after we had left the mountain that Cæsar Lifu and Joe had eaten two of my three new birds obtained on the mountain, and that one of the two was the lark.

44. We were camped two nights on Mount Victoria, the 11th and 12th of June, at an altitude of 12,452 feet, that is about 670 feet from the top of the highest peaks, and we therefore can speak of its climate with some degree of authority. The temperature rose in the middle of the day on the tops of the peaks when the sun shone straight on them to 70°; in the morning the grass was all quite white with frost before the rays of the sun reached it. Icicles were brought into camp the afternoon of the day we got to the top; and next day I saw one, the largest I observed, more than an inch in diameter and 7 or 8 inches long. During the day, from about 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., the temperature in the shade was between 50° and 60°. The sky was blue and cloudless, except when the wind was blowing strong from the south-east, when there was some haze. At night there was no trace of cloud to be seen, except those that lay like lead in the great valleys below, and the stars shone out as brilliantly as on a frosty winter's night in the British Isles. From the dryness of all plants and trees on the Owen Stanley Range it was apparent there had been no rain for several weeks, and the whole range did not show a single cataract or waterfall of any kind, nor even was there the murmuring of a mountain stream to break the deep oppressive silence that reigned on this great lone mountain Mount Victoria is, during this season at least, emphatically a dry mountain, and the same may be said of all the other great mountains of the Owen Stanley Range traversed by us; but yet, strange to say, water oozes from some of the gigantic rocks on the crest of Mount Victoria, and only 200 feet or 300 feet from the top of the south-east peak I caught a small frog which was floating, benumbed with cold, in a little pool of water, where there was

sufficient to enable one to say it was "running." We suffered much from the cold as we had not sufficient clothing to protect us, so that in spite of fires a good deal of discomfort had to be endured. It seemed also to sharpen the appetites of a party already not strangers to hunger.

45. The crest of Mount Victoria runs from south-east to north-west, and may be described as composed of six different peaks, but they might be divided differently by different observers. The north-west one and the south-east one are a few feet higher than any of the others, and perhaps 50 or 100 feet higher than some. It is impossible to say which of these two is the higher; after examining both, the one from the top of the other, I hold them to be of equal height. They are also more easily ascended than the central masses, being broader, longer, and far less rocky. The distance between the north-west and south-east peaks is from a mile to a mile and a quarter in a straight line; the chief portion of two of the intervening peaks lies to the north of this straight line. Up the sides of the north-west and south-east peaks there are great breaks in the rocks, that are now filled up with *débris* and growing grass, up which one can walk without the least difficulty if sure of one's feet and head, and the top of each is not less than eight or ten yards broad, and at least 50 or 60 yards long. On this nearly level ground, made up of decomposed rock, there grew flowering moss and heath, and it was easy to drive a peg a foot or two into the ground on which to rest the compass in taking angles. So easy is the ascent of these two peaks that I walked with hobnailed boots right up the north and down the south side of each, without having to creep, scramble, or use any support. But it is very different with the central peaks, to the top of all of which I climbed only after tremendous exertion. The upper 100 feet or more is usually perfectly bare rock, sometimes nearly perpendicular, sometimes overhanging; but patience will enable one to get to the top of each of them if one is prepared to incur a little risk. Fortunately the surface of these rocks is rough, and provides good footing, and supplies holding ground for the fingers. The different peaks, or parts of the same peak, are sometimes separated by chasms many scores of feet in depth so that to pass from peak to peak, a somewhat perilous descent and a laborious ascent has to be undertaken, often several times before a way to the bottom or top can be found. Mr. Forbes, in speaking of what I take to be the portion of the Owen Stanley Range I have named Mount Victoria, says, in a report to the Scottish Royal Geographical Society, published in August 1888:—"The Owen Stanley Peak is "a gigantic 'isolated' pyramidal block standing in weird loneliness, "detached from the main range, on its own base, culminating in "several acuminate rugged central peaks and pinnacles, whence "radiate sharp spurs with precipitous flanks, down whose gorges "dash impetuous torrents, whose waters filled the air with a "ceaseless moan, to join the Warumi and the Naoro. On the "topmost of these—Huxley Pinnacle—I have bestowed the name

British New Guinea.

" of my honoured master in biology, who from the deck of " H.M.S. 'Rattlesnake' described and named the range in honour " of her captain."

The relation of Mount Victoria to other mountains will be mentioned later on; but it must be remarked here that there is no topmost pinnacle on Mount Victoria, and that, therefore, I was unable to identify the one that was named Huxley Pinnacle by Mr. Forbes. I have, however, myself given no name to any particular peak on Mount Victoria, deeming the name of the Sovereign, bestowed on the mountain as a whole, sufficient to meet, for the present at all events, all practical purposes. Great rocky precipitous buttresses are thrown out by the mountain, exceeding 12,000 feet in height, two on the northern side, two on the southern side, and a mighty one on the south-east, and all of these are bristling with peaks and pinnacle-like rocks, and contain hundreds of inaccessible crags and precipices, more than enough to try one's resources in bestowing names were they each to be specified.

46. Mount Victoria is far from being the isolated block it has been customary to represent it. It is simply the eastern end of the Owen Stanley Range, which runs without any break, as one continuous whole, from the south-east end of Mount Victoria until the range meets Mount Griffith and Mount Scratchley; the length of this part of the range (for it continues further west, into Mount Thynne and Mount Lilley) is about 20 to 25 miles. The lowest part of the Owen Stanley Range from the east end of Mount Victoria to the junction mentioned is Dickson Pass, which, as already stated, is 10,884 feet in height. It need hardly be said that it was because of the fact that Mount Victoria is only a crest at the end of the great Owen Stanley Range that we adopted the route we took round the head waters of the Vanapa and along the top of the range itself, which gradually led to the summit of Mount Victoria. The Owen Stanley Range ends at the east in Mount Victoria, beyond which there are a number of low rounded hills separating it from the range in which Mount Obree is situated, a range which trends away northwards and forms one side of a large valley, which will be mentioned again. It is therefore quite erroneous, from a geographical point of view, to speak of Mount Obree as being part of the Owen Stanley Range, but the low country that intervenes between the ranges cannot, in all probability, be seen from Mount Obree itself by one looking thence towards Mount Victoria, and it is not distinct from the coast.

47. Mr. Cameron's calculations and my observations make the height of Mount Victoria 13,121 feet, an estimate that comes very near to that given on maps and charts, 13,205. This close approximation was not expected, as Mount Obree is entered on our charts as 10,246 feet high, and was found by Mr. Cuthbertson (*vide* Report of Royal Geographical Society of Victoria, Vol. V., Part II.) to be only 8,000 feet. But Mr. G. Hunter and some of the natives that went on that expedition say they did not go to the highest point of the Mount Obree Range, and Mr. Hunter

says distinctly that he had a glimpse of a peak about 1,500 feet higher than the one ascended, lying some distance to the north of it. This may account for the above great discrepancy between the estimated altitude and that ascertained by Mr. Cuthbertson. The weather, it appears, was so thick at the time that only occasional glimpses could be had of the neighbouring mountains. But, of course, all these measurements, my own included, are only approximate.

48. The view northward from the top of Mount Victoria was of the greatest interest. It has been already mentioned that the Owen Stanley Range meets Mount Griffith and Mount Scratchley. The first sight of the top of this latter mountain was had from the top of Mount Knutsford, whence it could be seen rising at some distance over Winter Height. It presents a bold rocky serrated crest, with well-defined outline. Like Mount Victoria, it is at the top destitute of trees, and for 500 feet downwards consists of bare rocks or patches of brownish grass. It is about 12,250 feet high. It runs in a north-easterly direction for three or four miles, and then opens out into two great ridges, which run down for about half a score of miles to end opposite Mounts Gillies and Parkes. A few miles further north than Mount Scratchley, and running nearly in the same direction, is the second highest mountain in the Possession, so far as at present known. To this mountain I have given the name of Albert Edward, in honour of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. About 1,000 feet of the top of this mountain is treeless, consisting of rock partly bare, partly grass-covered. Only some four or five miles of the crest of this mountain was visible from Mount Victoria. Its height has been estimated at 12,750 feet.

49. The north coast was for several hours in the forenoon plainly distinct from the top of Mount Victoria. This mountain is some 15 or 20 miles nearer to the south than to the north coast.

The country lying between it and the north coast is far less mountainous than that between it and the south coast. Looking from the top of Mount Victoria, between 360° and 90° magnetic compass, only two great mountains are seen between the Owen Stanley Range and the north coast ; these two are Mount Gillies and Mount Parkes, both great mountains, but evidently divided from each other and from the Owen Stanley Range; they are probably 7,000 or 8,000 feet high, but it is very difficult to estimate such altitudes looking down on them from a great height, as in this instance. Mount Gillies, the more westerly of the two, is a rounded mountain without any rugged peaks, clothed in unbroken forest. It cannot be less than 15 to 20 miles long, running in a north-easterly direction. It is separated from Mount Scratchley and Mount Albert Edward by a valley a mile or two wide, and from Mount Parkes, which lies immediately east of it, by a river. Mount Parkes resembles Mount Gillies in general features; it has no sharp, well-defined

British New Guinea.

peaks, is covered with forest, and has a length of 25 to 30 miles, and runs in nearly the same direction as the Owen Stanley Range. Mount Douglas, which, looked at from the south side, appears only as a moderate elevation on the Owen Stanley Range, runs north and east for several miles until it nearly meets a south-east spur of Mount Scratchley. A valley some two or three miles long lies between Mount Parkes on the north and the ends of Mounts Scratchley and Douglas on the south; this valley widens out and separates Mount Victoria from Mount Parkes, and bending round towards the north-east separates Mount Parkes from the end of the Mount Obree Range. On this valley I had noted three large lakes, as I supposed, and had actually sketched them into my note-book, when I was saved from this blunder by a native setting fire to one of them, when I could see they were great grass clearings in the forest. Smoke was rising from many other points in this valley, which is not less than 30 miles long and will average four or five broad. It appears to carry a considerable population. Far away in an easterly and southerly direction were several mountain ranges. The highest peaks easterly were those I supposed to be on Good-enough and Ferguson Islands, and higher still, in a south-easterly direction, were the mountains in the Mount Obree Range. There is thus, north of the Owen Stanley Range and between it and the north coast, a great extent of comparatively flat country; and there is much more population there than on the south side. It was impossible to see which way the rivers ran. Rivers could be seen, as between the end of the Mount Obree Range and Mount Parkes, and again between Mount Parkes and Mount Gillies; but it was not possible to determine in which direction they ran, as those two mountains are of immense size and there is low country, nearly flat, all round them.

Carefully taken angles were recorded, and outlines of the mountain chains made; as complete collections as was practicable were secured, and we left the top of Mount Victoria on the morning of the 13th on our return journey. Driven into the ground on the top of the south-eastern peak I left the peg I used for resting the compass on in taking bearings; and Mr. Belford informs me he left a powder flask on the top of the north-east peak containing a paper on which he has written that I ascended the mountain on the 11th June 1889, and named it Mount Victoria.

50. With regard to the nomenclature of the few mountains named on this expedition, it may be as well to state briefly the principles on which this has been done. No names have been given except where they were believed to be required for the purposes of description. Native names were not as a rule obtainable, but where they exist and are known they are adopted. The intention was that the names given to the mountains of or near the main range should present a permanent historic record of those concerned in founding British New Guinea. The name

Owen Stanley is retained for the whole range; its highest crest, the great and rugged mountain mass forming its eastern end, is named after the Sovereign. It is not necessary that remark should be made here on the others individually, beyond this: that it was well known that there was already, for example, a Mount Scratchley and a Mount Douglas; but these names (and it will be found that the remark applies to all others that have been repeated) have previously been bestowed on small hills that do not merit such great names and that possess native appellations. In future maps these will probably resume their native names. I cannot but express the hope that the historic names that have been bestowed on this expedition, every one of which has been given on public and not one on personal grounds, will become identified with the Possession.

I regret that neither myself nor Mr. Cameron could identify many of the places named by Mr. Forbes. That gentleman is undoubtedly a competent and careful observer, but his nearest approach to Mount Victoria was at such a distance from that mountain that, on account of the rugged and mountainous nature of the country, we have found it far from easy to determine how many great mountains or mountain spurs intervened between Mr Forbes and Mount Victoria with the Owen Stanley Range beyond it. That there were such is plain from the position he assigns to the Brown River. Mr. Forbes has clearly been looking at the south-east end of Mount Victoria, so that the mountain has shut off from his view its great extension on the north-west into the Owen Stanley Range. Mr. Forbes would probably also look into the deep, dark glen that separates Mount Knutsford from the central ridge of the Owen Stanley Range, and which looks, at a distance of a few miles, as if it cut off Mount Victoria from the part of the range lying to the north-west. This appearance at first deceived us when on Mount Musgrave. Hence Mount Victoria has presented to Mr. Forbes, somewhere south-east of it, the appearance of being an isolated pyramidal block, which, as has been shown, is far from being the case.

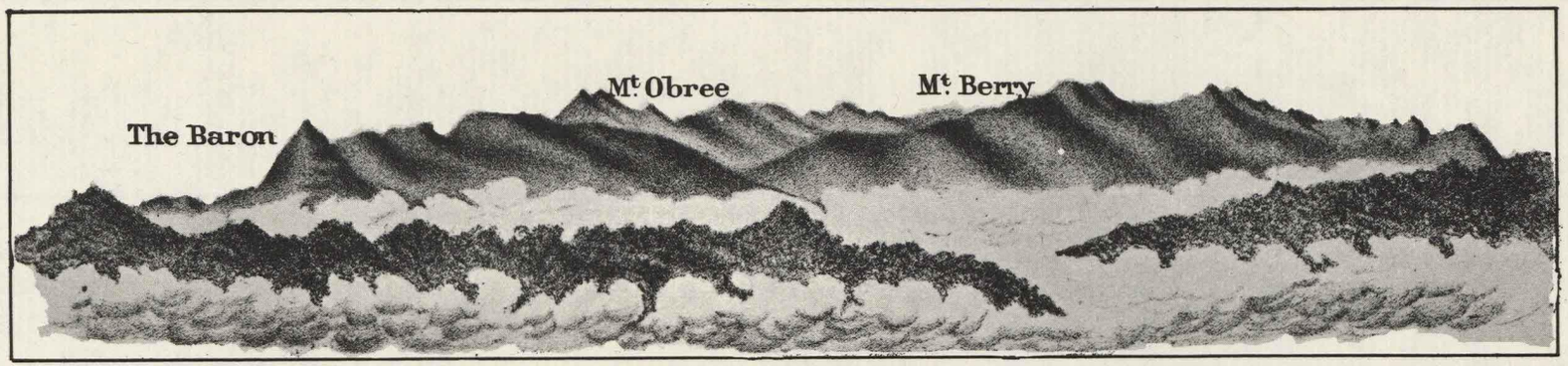
51. On the 16th we found ourselves in camp on the south side of Mount Knutsford, near the Vanapa River. We now desired to pay our promised visit to the natives. It was necessary that someone should cross the river and ascend the dreaded north side of Mount Musgrave to collect those of our party we had left there and to get them to descend that mountain to meet my party near the river lower down. There was really no one except myself at all able to undertake such a hard march, as I alone wore shoes, and the others suffered greatly from sores and blisters on the feet; and I therefore felt myself called on to make it, which I did, accompanied by one Papuan. The rest of the party, carrying all the arms, &c., were to go by way of the villages. I reached Mr. Cameron's camp about 4 p.m., and found all well except one native carrier, who was dying of chest disease. All preparations were made for a move next morning in the direction of the native

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

villages. I started with a native boy for the villages on the foot of Mount Knutsford, where I hoped to meet the party returning from Mount Victoria; but when I got down to the nearest village I found that they had not come that way, and concluded they must for some reason have changed their minds and braced themselves for the ascent of Mount Musgrave after all. I accordingly returned the same day to camp, so that next day should not be lost, and found them all safe there. The natives received me very kindly. As we descended the mountain we met a number of them on the way to our camp with food for sale. The chief man and some others turned back and accompanied me to their nearest village, which, however, turned out to be only a small collection of garden houses. They presented me with sugar-cane and some newly dug taro, and were very friendly and communicative until I began to sketch an outline of the mountain range before me, which seemed to alarm them, as they soon left us on different pretences, some to bring us a pig, others to fetch different articles for barter. But as we had to leave before their return to enable us to get back to camp before night, we did very little trade that day. One of our party had a similar experience when he visited them and began to sketch the same mountain outline; but this was unknown to me at that time. In coming down the river I stopped to visit the natives of Tohila, the owners of the suspension bridge mentioned above. They brought us pigs and native food, and I was able to obtain a short list of words of their dialect. They much resemble the Mount Knutsford natives, but are less robust, and have not as well-marked features. Their language has a close resemblance to that of the Mount Knutsford tribe, but it has many words that are the same as or akin to Motu. They also are evidently Papuans, without any trace of any older race. They were very friendly, and did not appear to be distrustful. They carried no arms, and we saw several children and girls.

The return journey from the top of Mount Victoria to the coast was accomplished in 12 days. The whole expedition may be said to have ended without mishap. I greatly regretted the death of the poor man who succumbed on Mount Musgrave; but there were besides him several men that proved physically unfit for such a journey. Unfortunately I had no opportunity of selecting them when they started. Several of the party suffered severely from fever, but only one was seriously ill.

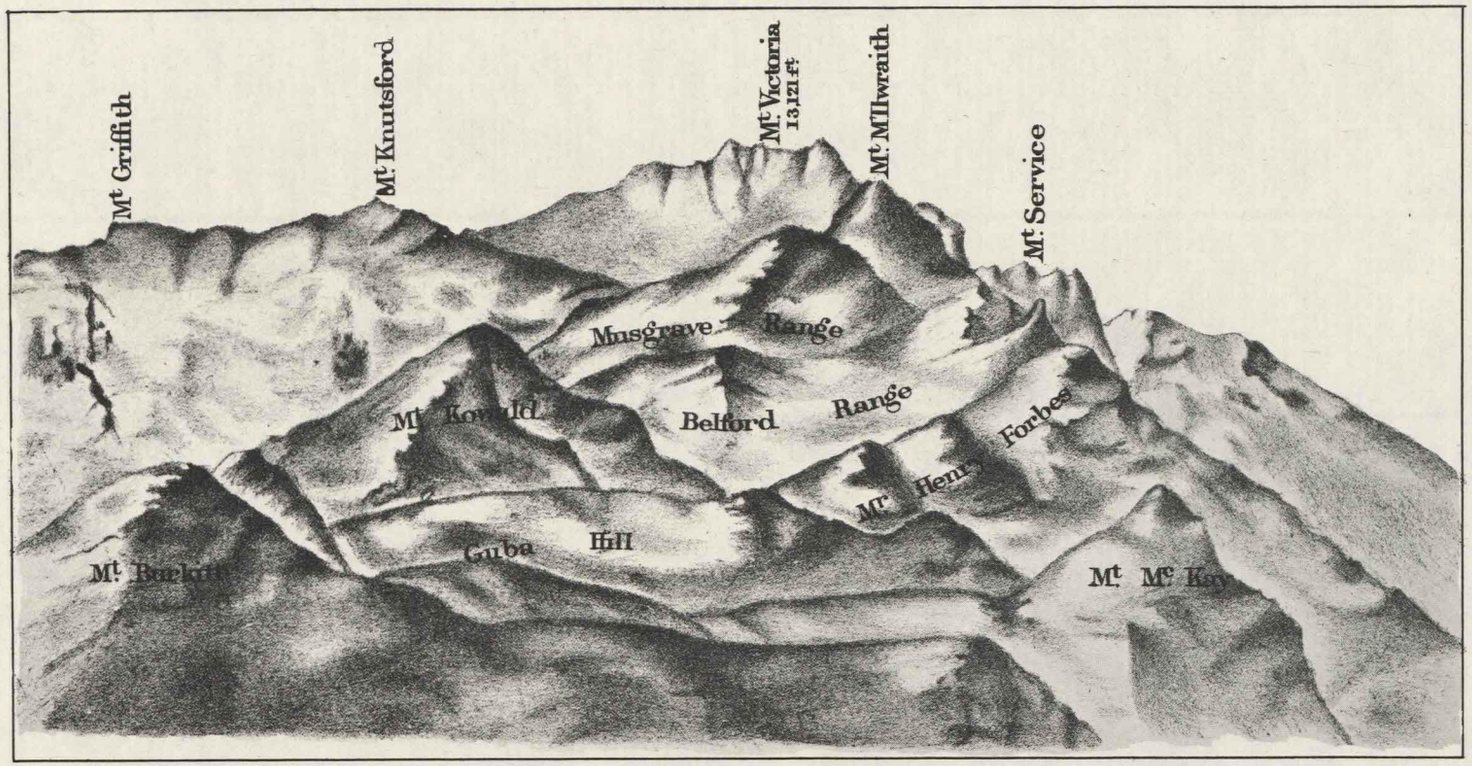
The collections made have not fulfilled the hopes entertained. The official collection of birds contains a few new ones of value, and several specimens of rare kinds. To encourage those that carried guns in collecting, I allowed them the same advantages as I gave to my two private collectors. Of each sort of bird I took the first specimen; the person shooting took the second; I the third, and so on. This collection will reach Brisbane for examination by the first trip of the "Merrie England." The geological collection will, I trust, in the hands of Mr. Jack,



Judd & Co Ltd Lith. 73 & 75, Farringdon Rd & Doctors' Commons. 1705.10.30

OWEN STANLEY RANGE

As seen above clouds by Mr. Cuthbertson.



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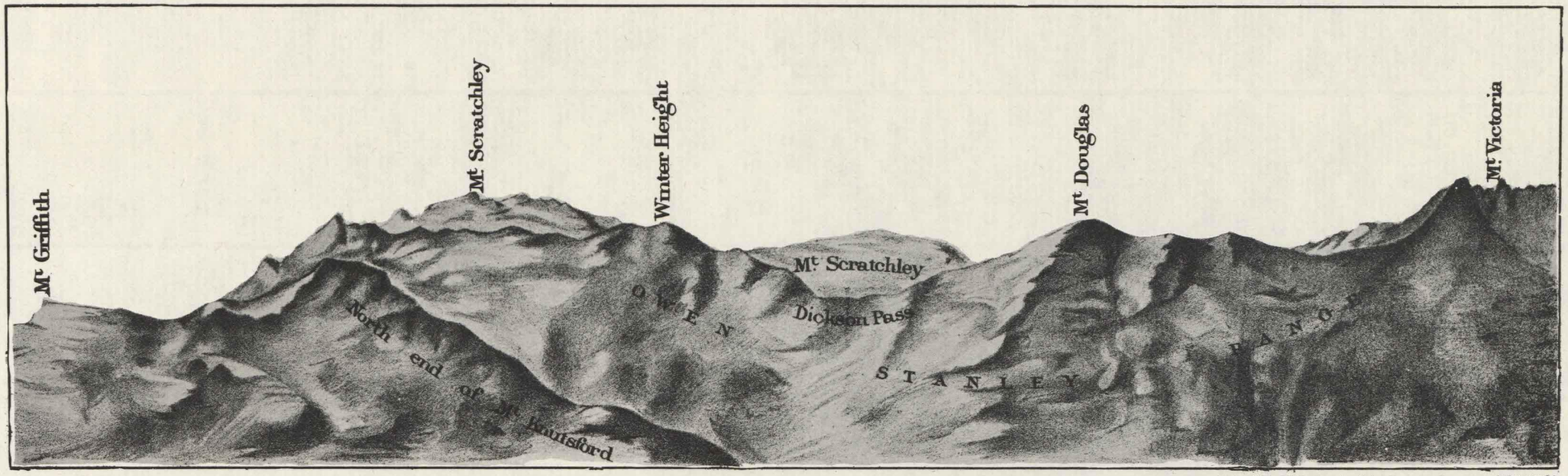
OWEN STANLEY RANGE.

as seen from Jack's Rock.



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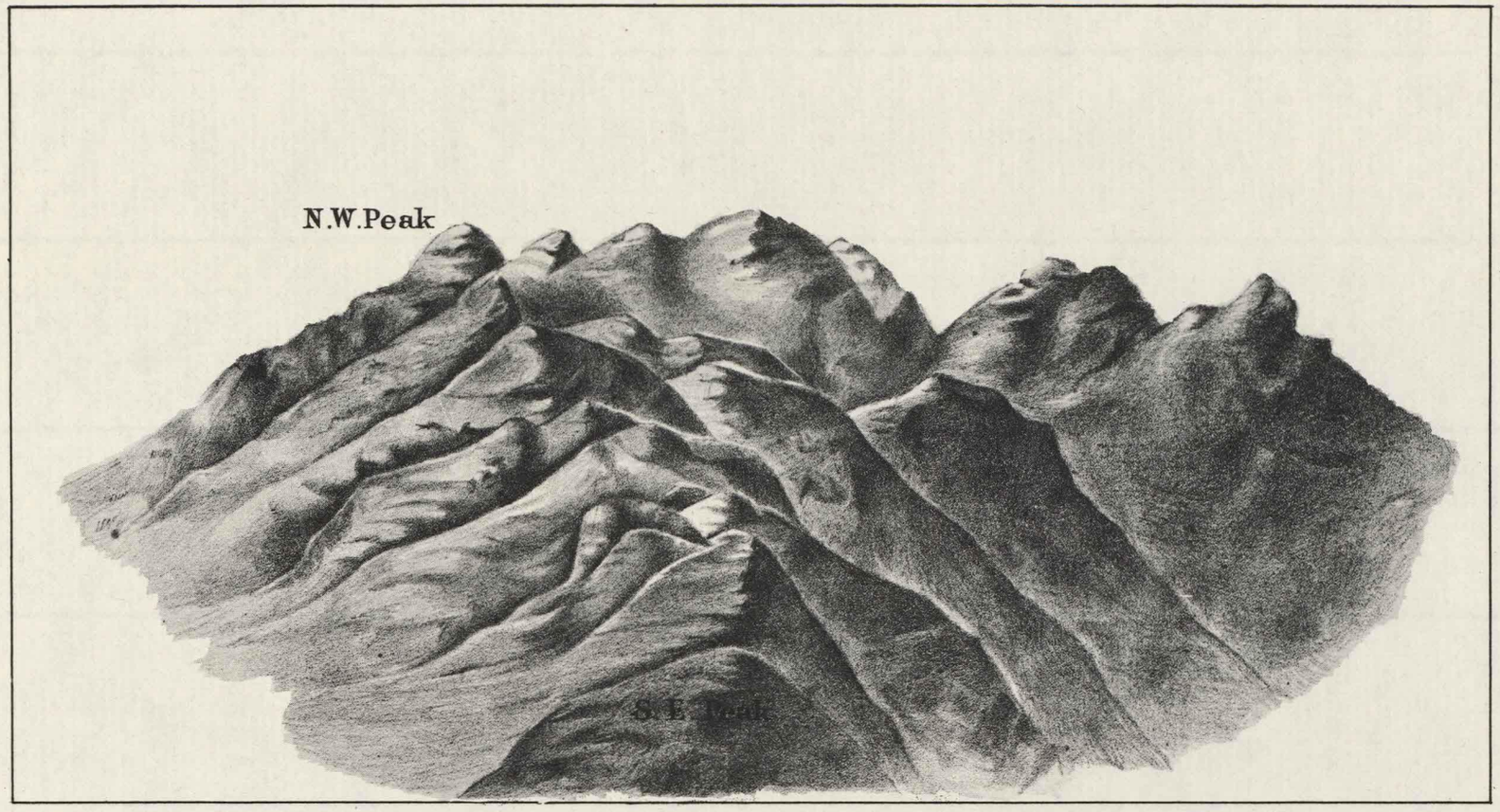
OWEN STANLEY RANGE

from the top of Mt Knutsford.



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PEAKS OF Mt VICTORIA.

Looking along Mt. Victoria from the S.E. Peak.

the Government geologist of Queensland, tell a connected tale of much interest, as it covers the whole ground traversed. The botanical collection is being forwarded by this opportunity to Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, from whom we shall hear of its value in due course.

A plan of the country that came under inspection will be prepared by Mr. Cameron and submitted to your Excellency, with remarks and explanations, when completed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Wm. Macgregor.

His Excellency
Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c.,
Governor of Queensland.

APPENDIX E.

Imports, Exports, Shipping, and Postal.

Imports entered at Port Moresby from the 4th September 1888 *to* 30*th June* 1889*; and at Samarai from the* 1*st January to the* 30*th June* 1889.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Acid, tartaric -	53 lb.	7 15 0	5 lb.	0 12 6	58 lb.	8 7 6
„ carbonic -	1 pkg.	1 0 0	—	—	1 pkg.	1 0 0
Arrowroot -	8 lb.	0 12 0	48 lb.	1 6 6	56 lb.	1 18 6
Axes - -	4½ doz.	10 0 0	—	—	4½ doz.	10 0 0
Bags (paper) -	56 lb.	1 0 0	56 lb.	0 15 0	1 cwt.	1 15 0
Beads - -	200 lb.	11 0 0	100 lb.	5 0 0	300 lb.	16 0 0
Beer (bottled) -	226 galls.	69 10 0	1,008 galls.	262 12 0	1,234 galls.	332 2 0
Biscuits - -	4,480 lb.	69 10 0	7,942 lb.	126 15 3	12,422 lb.	196 5 3
„ (sweet)	87 lb.	3 10 0	—	—	87 lb.	3 10 0
Bitters - -	—	—	6 galls.	5 0 0	6 galls.	5 0 0
Blacking - -	4 doz.	1 0 0	—	—	4 doz.	1 0 0
Blue - -	72 lb.	3 0 0	—	—	72 lb.	3 0 0
Boats - -	1	32 10 0	—	—	1	32 10 0
Books - -	—	51 0 0	—	—	—	51 0 0
Boots - -	215 pairs	67 0 0	202 pairs	64 19 3	417 pairs.	131 19 3
Brandy - -	12 galls.	13 10 0	120¾ galls.	93 16 0	132¾ galls.	107 6 0
Brick (bath) -	2 doz.	0 10 0	—	—	2 doz.	0 10 0
Butter - -	668 lb.	54 15 0	2,138 lb.	192 11 7	2,806 lb.	247 6 7
Candles - -	75 lb.	10 15 0	1,247 lb.	40 9 4	1,522 lb.	51 4 4

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Canvas - -	324 yards	21 0 0	—	87 7 0	—	108 7 0
Caps (percussion)	4,000	1 0 0	—	—	4,000	1 0 0
Cartridges -	6,625	15 10 0	2,350	13 12 0	8,975	29 2 0
Cartridge cases -	2,000	4 0 0	—	—	2,000	4 0 0
Cement - -	1 cask	1 10 0	—	—	1 cask	1 10 0
Cheese - -	291 lb.	17 0 0	428 lb.	23 12 6	719 lb.	40 12 6
Chicory - -	6 lb.	0 2 0	—	—	6 lb.	0 2 0
Cigars - -	14 lb.	3 0 0	8 lb.	1 8 0	22 lb.	4 8 0
Clocks & watches	9 pkgs.	8 0 0	—	—	9 pkgs.	8 0 0
Clothing - -	11 pkgs.	166 0 0	—	—	11 pkgs.	166 0 0
Coal tar - -	—	—	40 galls.	4 3 0	40 galls.	4 3 0
Cocoa - -	99 lb.	17 5 0	172 lb.	33 12 6	271 lb.	50 17 6
Coffee - -	386 lb.	29 10 0	490 lb.	29 18 0	876 lb.	59 8 0
Confectionery -	21 lb.	0 10 0	—	—	21 lb.	0 10 0
Cordials - -	—	—	96 doz.	13 14 0	96 doz.	13 14 0
Cornflour - -	52 lb.	1 10 0	280 lb.	7 6 8	332 lb.	8 16 8
Cream of tartar -	28 doz.	3 0 0	—	—	28 doz.	3 0 0
Crockery - -	7 pkgs.	23 15 0	—	19 0 0	—	42 15 0
Curry powder -	6 doz.	4 0 0	112 lb.	9 6 6	—	13 6 6
Cutlery - -	2 pkgs.	2 10 0	—	—	2 pkgs.	2 10 0
Diving gear -	—	—	2 cases	24 0 0	2 cases	24 0 0
Doors - -	10 pkgs.	14 10 0	2	3 0 0	12 pkgs.	17 10 0
Drapery - -	37 pkgs.	688 15 0	—	497 1 11	—	1,185 16 11
Drugs - -	—	48 5 0	—	179 17 6	—	228 2 6
Dynamite -	10 lb.	1 10 0	—	—	10 lb.	1 10 0
Effects (personal)	27 pkg .	252 5 0	—	—	27 pkgs.	252 5 0
Electro ware -	1 pkg.	4 10 0	—	—	1 pkg.	4 10 0
Essences - -	1½ doz.	1 10 0	—	—	1½ doz.	1 10 0
Fish (dried) -	—	—	4 cwt.	5 0 0	4 cwt.	5 0 0
„ (preserved)	212 doz.	118 0 0	540⅓ doz.	177 12 9	752⅓ doz.	295 12 9
Flour - -	13 1/10 tons.	209 5 0	19¼ tons.	291 12 0	32 tons 7 cwt.	500 17 0
Fruit (canned) -	55½ doz.	36 0 0	95 doz.	55 11 6	150½ doz.	91 11 6
„ (dried) -	757 lb.	23 15 0	16½ cwt.	66 14 1	2,428 lb.	90 9 1
„ (green) -	3½ cases	1 15 0	—	—	3½ cases	1 15 0
„ (salts) -	4 doz.	6 10 0	—	—	4 doz.	6 10 0
Furniture -	6 pkgs.	32 0 0	—	—	6 pkgs.	32 0 0
Geneva and schnapps.	—	—	18 galls.	8 1 0	18 galls.	8 1 0
Gin - -	2 galls.	1 10 0	—	—	2 galls.	1 10 0
Glassware -	8 pkgs.	13 0 0	—	—	8 pkgs.	13 0 0
Guns - -	20	41 0 0	—	23 0 0	—	64 0 0
Gunpowder -	182 lb.	22 10 0	22 lb.	4 4 0	204 lb.	26 14 0

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Hams and bacon	1,117 lb.	59 15 0	1,931 lb.	111 5 0	3,048 lb.	171 0 0
Hardware -	—	209 15 0	—	368 8 6	—	578 3 6
Hatchets - -	100 doz.	126 10 0	—	—	100 doz.	126 10 0
Herbs - -	6 btls.	0 10 0	—	—	6 btls.	0 10 0
Hops - -	6 lb.	0 3 0	12 lb.	1 0 0	18 lb.	1 3 0
Iron (galvanised)	3½ tons.	76 0 0	—	—	3½ tons.	76 0 0
Ironmongery -	26 pkgs.	70 10 0	—	—	26 pkgs.	70 10 0
Jams - -	146 doz.	48 10 0	315 doz.	98 16 0	461 doz.	147 6 0
Kerosene - -	616 gals.	63 15 0	86 galls.	11 19 3	702 galls.	75 14 3
Knives - -	192 doz.	126 0 0	—	—	192 doz.	126 0 0
Lard - -	135 lb.	6 15 0	—	—	135 lb.	6 15 0
Leatherware -	7 pkgs.	20 15 0	—	—	7 pkgs.	20 15 0
Limejuice -	22 galls.	9 0 0	19 galls.	11 1 0	41 galls.	20 1 0
Maccaroni -	85 lb.	3 0 0	—	—	85 lb.	3 0 0
Maize - -	24½ bshls.	8 10 0	—	—	24½ bshls.	8 10 0
Matting - -	40 yds.	1 15 0	—	—	40 yards	1 15 0
Meat (preserved)	9,574 lb.	353 10 0	14,784 lb.	397 1 0	24,358 lb.	750 11 0
„ (salt) -	52½ lb.	98 0 0	17⅘ tons	510 19 0	408½ cwt.	608 19 0
„ (extract and potted).	91 lb.	9 5 0	47 lb.	12 14 0	138 lb.	21 19 0
Milk - -	88 doz.	31 0 0	462⅔ doz.	173 0 4	550½ doz.	204 0 4
Mirrors - -	2 pkgs.	6 0 0	—	—	2 pkgs.	6 0 0
Mustard - -	24 lb.	2 0 0	168 lb.	10 4 0	192 lb.	12 4 0
Nails - -	21⅓ cwt.	32 0 0	—	—	21⅓ cwt.	32 0 0
Nuts - -	24 lb.	0 5 0	—	—	24 lb.	0 5 0
Oatmeal - -	4¾ cwt.	8 0 0	2,328 lb.	35 8 6	2,748 lb.	43 8 6
Oil - -	98½ galls.	22 0 0	76 galls.	17 10 0	174½ galls.	39 10 0
Oilman's stores -	—	11 10 0	—	—	—	11 10 0
Onions - -	6½ cwt.	7 15 0	—	—	6½ cwt.	7 15 0
	Cwt. qr. lb.				Ton. cwt. lb.	
Paint - -	9 0 12	31 10 0	12¼ cwt.	27 0 0	1 1 40	58 10 0
Peas and beans -	5½ cwt.	5 0 0	—	—	5½ cwt.	5 0 0
Pepper - -	43 lb.	3 10 0	—	—	43 lb.	3 10 0
Photographic plates.	1 pkg.	3 0 0	—	—	1 pkg.	3 0 0
Pickles - -	29 doz.	10 10 0	130 doz.	70 5 6	159 doz.	80 15 6
Pipes (clay) -	6 gross	1 7 0	168 gross.	27 19 6	174 gross	29 6 6
„ (wood) -	6 doz.	3 0 0	6 doz.	2 14 0	12 doz.	5 14 0
Pitch - -	1 cask	2 0 0	—	—	1 cask	2 0 0
Plants - -	1 pkg.	5 0 0	100	5 0 0	—	10 0 0
Potatoes - -	32¼ cwt.	23 15 0	5⁹⁄₁₀ tons	164 16 9	150¼ cwt.	188 11 9
„ (preserved)	8 pkgs.	3 10 0	—	—	8 pkgs.	3 10 0
Printed forms -	—	—	250	1 0 0	250	1 0 0
Rice - -	13⁴⁄₁₀ tons	180 0 0	10¾ tons	146 13 9	4¼ tons	326 13 9

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Article.	Port Moresby.		Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Rope - -	699 lb.	20 0 0	356 lb.	11 4 4	1,055 lb.	31 4 4
Rum - -	33¾ gals.	21 10 0	48½ gallls.	23 1 0	82¼ galls.	44 11 0
Sacks - -	41 doz.	24 5 0	—	—	41 doz.	24 5 0
Sago - -	36 lb.	0 10 0	51 lb.	1 3 5	87 lb.	1 13 5
Salt (coarse) -	28 cwt.	5 10 0	—	—	28 cwt.	5 10 0
„ (table) -	6 doz.	2 15 0	24 lb.	3 0 0	—	5 15 0
Sashes - -	20 prs.	15 0 0	4 prs.	3 14 0	24 prs.	18 14 0
Sarsaparilla -	—	—	4 galls.	5 0 0	4 galls.	5 0 0
Sauce - -	35 doz.	11 10 0	—	—	35 doz.	11 10 0
Scent - -	¼ gall.	1 0 0	—	—	¼ gall.	1 0 0
Sheep - -	16	26 0 0	—	—	16	26 0 0
Shot - -	12½ cwt.	16 10 0	28 lb.	1 0 0	12¾ cwt.	17 10 0
Soap - -	25¾ cwt.	27 10 0	12¼ cwt.	12 18 6	38 cwt.	40 8 6
Soda - -	211 lb.	4 5 0	10 lb.	0 5 0	221 lb.	4 10 0
Soup - -	41½ doz.	22 10 0	80 doz.	60 15 0	121½ doz.	83 5 0
Spirits (methylated).	45½ galls.	10 5 0	—	—	45½ galls.	10 5 0
Stationery -	—	11 10 0	—	0 10 6	—	12 0 6
Starch - -	15 lb.	0 15 0	17 lb.	0 13 0	32 lb.	1 8 0
Sugar - -	3 tons	81 15 0	8 1/10 tons.	212 18 6	11 1/10 tons.	294 13 6
Sundries - -	1 case	5 0 0	—	43 5 0	—	48 5 0
Syrups - -	10 doz.	4 5 0	—	31 8 6	—	35 13 6
Tanks - -	6	36 0 0	—	—	6	36 0 0
Tar - -	59 galls.	6 0 0	—	—	59 gall.	6 0 0
Tea - -	643 lb.	45 10 0	1,891 lb.	111 2 8	2,534 lb.	156 12 8
Timber - -	15,750 feet	219 10 0	2,207 feet	12 15 3	17,957 feet	232 5 3
Tobacco - -	6,024 lb.	373 0 0	4 6/10 tons.	619 4 10	7 tons 6 cwt.	992 4 10
Twine - -	105 lb.	7 15 0	60 lb.	4 11 8	1 cwt. 43 lb.	12 6 8
Vegetables (tinned).	50 doz.	21 10 0	—	37 10 9	—	59 0 9
Vestas - -	34½ gross	31 0 0	85 gross	69 13 6	119½ gross	100 13 6
Vinegar - -	22 galls.	4 10 0	37 galls.	10 11 0	59 galls.	15 1 0
Varnish - -	3 galls.	1 10 0	—	—	3 galls.	1 10 0
Waters (aërated)	64½ doz.	20 0 0	—	—	64½ doz.	20 0 0
Wheat - -	12 bshls.	3 0 0	5 cwt.	2 17 4	11 cwt. 48 lb.	5 17 4
Whisky - -	22 galls.	19 10 0	189 galls.	123 17 0	211 galls.	143 7 0
Wine - -	40 galls.	23 0 0	38 galls.	36 4 0	78 galls.	59 4 0
Wire netting -	200 yds.	22 10 0	—	—	200 yds.	22 10 0
Woodenware -	9 pkgs.	10 0 0	—	—	9 pkgs.	10 0 0
Wads (gun) -	50 lb.	7 10 0	—	—	50 lb.	7 10 0
Total -	—	5,091 19 0	—	6,016 13 2	—	11,108 12 2

11th November 1889.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

EXPORTS FROM THE POSSESSION.

Exports from Port Moresby from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889; and from Samarai from 1st January to 30th June 1889.

Article.	Port Moresby.		From Samarai.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bêche-de-Mer	9 tons	478 0 0	29½ tons	1,700 0 0	38½ tons	2,178 0 0
Birds	1 case	26 0 0	—	—	1 case	26 0 0
Bottles (empty)	2 pkgs.	0 10 0	—	—	2 pkgs.	0 10 0
Copra	—	—	76 tons	550 0 0	76 tons	550 0 0
Curiosities	16 pkgs.	360 0 0	—	—	16 pkgs.	360 0 0
Drapery	1 pkg.	7 1 0	—	—	1 „	7 1 0
Gold	—	—	334⅔ oz.	1,209 17 6	334⅔ oz.	1,209 17 6
Gum	—	—	5 tons	53 0 0	5 tons	53 0 0
Pearl-shell	—	—	15¾ tons	1,510 0 0	15¾ tons	1,510 0 0
Turtle-shell	—	—	1½ cwt.	49 0 0	1½ cwt.	49 0 0
						5,943 8 6

11th November 1889.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

Statement of Navigation, showing the Nationality, Number, and Tonnage of Foreign-going Vessels entered and cleared at the Ports of the Possession (Ships of War not included).

Nationality.	Vessels.	Entered.		Cleared.	
		4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889.		4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889.	
		Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
	PORT MORESBY.				
British	Sailing	17	1,309	20	1,516
	Steam	3	597	2	327
	Total	20	1,906	22	1,843
Other Nations		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	SAMARAI (1st January to 30th June 1889).				
British	Sailing	26	2,045	15	1,284
	Steam	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil
	Total	26	2,045	15	1,284
Other Nations	Steam	1	157	1	157
	Total	1	157	1	157

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Entered. 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889. Number.	Entered. Tonnage.	Cleared. 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889. Number.	Cleared. Tonnage.
	TOTALS.				
Port Moresby		20	1,906	22	1,843
Samarai		27	2,202	16	1,441
	Total	47	4,108	38	3,284

Vessels—Coastwise.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Entered. 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889. Number.	Entered. Tonnage.	Cleared. 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889. Number.	Cleared. Tonnage.
	PORT MORESBY (4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889).				
British	Sailing	46	1,536	45	1,640
	Steam	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total	46	1,536	45	1,640
Other Nations		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	SAMARAI (from 1st January to 30th June 1889.)				
British	Sailing	105	1,838	105	2,028
	Steam	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Total	105	1,838	105	2,028
Other Nations		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	TOTALS.				
Port Moresby		46	1,536	45	1,640
Samarai		105	1,838	105	2,028
	Total	151	3,374	150	3,668

12th November 1889.

F. E. LAWES,
Collector of Customs.

Return of the number of Letters, Packets, and Newspapers received and despatched by the Post Offices at Port Moresby and Samarai from 4th September 1888 *to* 30*th June* 1889.

—	Received.			Despatched.		
	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.
Port Moresby - -	1,783	82	3,427	1,624	84	494
Samarai - -	583	11	644	963	14	80
Total - -	2,366	93	4,071	2,587	98	574

11th November 1889.

F. E. LAWES,
Postmaster.

APPENDIX F.

GEOLOGY.

Report on Geological Specimens, by Robert L. Jack, Esq., and by A. W. Clarke, Esq.

SIR, Townsville, June 5, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith report on the specimens from New Guinea and neighbouring islands forwarded with your letter of 7th February last, together with petrological notes on two of the rock specimens and notes on sands and gravels by Mr. A. W. Clarke, late Government Mineralogical Lecturer, who was good enough to prepare sections and examine them with the microscope.

The specimens are held at your disposal.

In compliance with your request I send, through Burns, Philp, and Co., as per enclosed shipping receipt, a parcel containing labels and 200 bags for specimens.

The specimens reported on tell no connected tale such as would enable one to construct even a theory regarding the geology of the islands. They show, however, that palæozoic rocks, such as are the matrices of gold and other metallic deposits in Australia and elsewhere, are abundant, and that basaltic lavas are of common occurrence. The limestones may yield fossils which would be of great service in unravelling the structure of the islands.

It will be seen from the report that four of the quartz samples give traces of gold by the iodine process, and this is of importance. Permit me to recommend that you should impress on prospectors the importance and simplicity of this test, which will detect the

presence of gold in quartz or pyrites, even though present in such minute quantities as to be invisible in a dish "prospect" with the most careful manipulation. The "tincture of iodine" of medicine is the only re-agent required, and the only apparatus necessary is a few test tubes, a spirit lamp, a glass funnel, white blotting paper, and asbestos. Iodine is dissolved in alcohol till the solution is of a rich, but not too dark, port-wine colour. The powdered mineral is then put in a china or glass dish, with its own bulk of the solution, and occasionally stirred for two hours. The solution is next decanted and filtered, and a bunch of asbestos fibres of the thickness of a penholder dipped into it. The asbestos (held with pincers) is then pushed into the flame of a spirit lamp. A purple tinge on the asbestos, after the spirit has been burnt off, is a certain indication of the presence of gold in the mineral. The asbestos may be soaked and burned twice, or oftener, should the reaction at first be doubtful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT L. JACK.

His Excellency Sir W. MacGregor, K.C.M.G.,
Administrator of British New Guinea.

Report on Rock and other Specimens from New Guinea and Neighbouring Islands.

No.	Marks.	Names and Remarks.
1	Mount Kilkerran, north side —Base rock, slate quartz. —3rd November 1888.	One specimen quartzose mica schist and four specimens reef quartz, which gives no trace of gold by the iodine test.
2	North-east St. Aignan.—Trachyte (?) slate quartz. 21st October 1888.	Five specimens finely laminated indurated micaceous sandstone or quartzite, and one specimen of a much weathered felspathic rock, probably a volcanic tuff.
3	Slate and quartz—Joannet, 10th March 1888.	One specimen weathered mica schist marked "Joannet Harbour," and one specimen reef quartz of unpromising appearance.
4	Pumice and pitchstone—Ferguson Island, Dawson Straits. — 31st October 1888.	Pumice and pitchstone. (*See* Mr. Clarke's Notes, No. 1.)
5	Rossel Island, river-boulder —Quartzose.—10th October 1888.	In fragments. Looks like a micaceous quartzite with vein quartz adhering.
6	Sudest Island, river bed—Slate and quartz veins.—10th October 1888.	Micaceous slate with a little quartz adhering.
7	Veins in sandstone—High Island. — 10th October 1888.	One sample is a fine-grained sandstone of mixed siliceous and felspathic material. Two others are of vein quartz, one of them coloured greenish yellow by protoxide of iron. The quartz gives no trace of gold by the iodine test.
8	Dividing Range, Milne Bay. —14th January 1889.	Basalt.
9	Tauputa River. — 15th January 1889.	Two samples of compact white marble, and one of reddish clay slate.

No.	Marks.	Names and Remarks.
10	Rossel Island—Slate and quartz.—16 October 1888.	Slate and vein quartz, which gives a trace of gold by the iodine test.
11	Logea.—29th January 1889	Basalt.
12	Slate and quartz veins, South Rossel Island.—16th October 1888.	Slate and quartz veins. The quartz does not look promising, but gives a trace of gold by the iodine test.
13	St. Aignan—Lime conglomerate quartz slate, Middle Range — 23rd October 1888.	Apparently a very recent beach deposit. The conglomerate contains quartz and slate pebbles and fragments of shells. Its matrix is apparently derived from the waste of basalt and slate, and is slightly calcareous, being full of comminuted shells.
14	Sudest River Bed—Slate and quartz.—16th October 1888.	Slate with small quartz vein adhering.
15	North Normanby — Porphyry (?).—1st November 1888.	Weathered granite.
16	Rocks — Dividing Range, Mullin's Harbour and Milne Bay.—29th January 1889.	Hard compact mudstone, a piece of calcareous tufa with shell fragments, and the "stone" of a fruit.
17	Moresby Straits, Goodenough Island.—9th October 1888.	Vesicular basaltic lava. (*See* Mr. Clarke's Notes, No. 2.)
18	Slade Island.—10th January 1889.	Eleven pieces dolerite (basalt but macrocrystalline), two of acidic felstone, and three probably the same but weathered beyond recognition.
19	Teste Island.—14th January 1889.	Grey limestone (good for mortar or as a building stone), and calcareous shale. [Fossils would probably be found in these and would be gratefully received.—R.L.J.]
20	Ferguson Island, Straits. West foot of Maybole Mt. (?).—7th November 1888. Slate mica.	Highly micaceous gneiss.
21	Normanby, 2nd Anchorage —Dolomite (?). River Glen.—28th October 1888.	Limestone. Would make a very fine building stone.
22	Samarai. — 30th January 1889.	Numerous fragments of weathered dolerite, and a large piece of quartzite containing patches of arsenical pyrites.
23	Ferguson Island, West End, Hughes Bay—Slate and quartz. — 5th November 1888.	Two fragments weathered dolerite, the larger with masses of mica adhering, and apparently from the junction of dolerite with a metamorphic rock, one fragment of fine-grained gneiss, and one fragment of quartz.
24	Goodenough Island, Dawson's Straits — Micaceous schists. — 7th November 1888.	Mica schist and weathered fragments of an altered conglomerate.
25	High Island—Quartz, slate veins. — 10th October 1888.	Quartz and two fragments of siliceous slate. The quartz gives a faint trace of gold by the iodine test.
26	Well Island.—2nd November 1888.	Two specimens pitchstone, one of basalt, and one (weathered) of trachyte (?).
27	N.W. coast Normanby Island—River-bed wash.—1st November 1888.	Re-cemented granite débris, with a few fragments of pitchstone.
28	Sudest—River sand and gravel. — 18th October 1888.	Pebbles of slate, schist and quartz, and broken fragments of orthoclase felspar crystals, probably out of a granite. (*See* Mr. Clarke's Notes.)

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No.	Marks.	Names and Remarks.
29	Sudest River—Gravel and clay.—18th October 1888.	Besides dry clay, fragments of slate, schist, and quartz. (*See* Mr. Clarke's Notes.)
30	Milne Bay—Stones and gravel. Both sides range. — 26th January 1889.	An iron oolite consisting of agglutinated concretions of iron peroxide, and débris of the same. NOTE.—The apparent low specific gravity of the stone is due to the open spaces between the concretions.
31	Normanby Island, 2nd Anchorage–River gravel. —28th October 1888.	Fragments of slate, schist, and quartz, and a few broken orthoclase felspar crystals.

Notes on Sand and Gravel, Sudest River.

The quartzes are but little worn.
Worn fragments of schist.
„ slate.
Titannic iron.
Specular „
Three pieces of white glass, one worn.
One shell.
Three or four minute but perfect quartz crystals.
No gold, tin, gems, or anything of value.

Notes on Gravel and Clay from Sudest River.

Quartz.
Schist.
Slate.
Abundance of clay.
Two pieces of glass.
No gold, tin, gems, or anything of value.

PETROLOGICAL NOTES ON TWO SAMPLES OF ROCK FROM NEW GUINEA.

No. 1 *marked Pitchstone, Ferguson Island, Dawson Strait.*

This sample is very much cracked, the cracks radiating round centres which consist of quartz crystals in every case. The colour is pitch black and very lustrous. To the naked eye quartz crystals alone can be detected in the black magnea. The radiating cracks are seen to the best advantage on the cut face. One such crack is depicted in the drawing annexed, No. 1.* Across the south-west corner of the crystal a crack is shown extending into the homogeneous glass on either side. The glass enclosures with gas pores are well shown in the drawing. The sections only show

* Not printed.

felspars (sanidine) and quartz under a low power; between crossed nicols a distinct evidence of fluxion structure can be traced.

In Drawing No. 2 the enclosures in the tabular felspars are shown but under the inch; the field is too small to give evidence of fluxion.

The glass is perfectly transparent grey and, of course, isotropic between crossed nicols. There appear to be no other minerals present.

No. 2, Basalt, Goodenough Island, Moresby Strait.

Vesicular with minute augite and felspar crystals visible to the naked eye. Under the microscope between crossed nicols, augite crystals are seen in plenty with glass enclosures and magnetite. The augite is well marked as shown in Drawing No. 3.* The sanidine crystal in the same drawing shows growth by accretion in a very beautiful manner. The ground mass is so opaque that minute plagioclose crystals not thick enough to reach through and touch each surface of the section do not appear by transmitted light at all, while by reflected light a very large number of minute pellucid crystals can be observed.

Report on Geological Specimens from New Guinea submitted for examination to the Assistant Government Geologist by His Honour Sir William MacGregor.

SIR, Brisbane, August 15, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to present my report on the Geological specimens from New Guinea, submitted to me for examination by his Honour Sir William MacGregor, most of which (Nos. 1 to 26) were collected by him during his recent expedition up the Vanapa River to the top of Mount Victoria.

The other specimens (Nos. 27 to 40) were collected chiefly from the district situated about 50 miles to the south-east of Port Moresby.

The whole of the specimens are described in detail in the Appendix to this Report.

Referring, firstly, to the collection made during the Mount Victoria expedition.

These interesting specimens enable one to form a very good idea of the geological character of the country drained by the Vanapa River.

The whole region consists almost entirely of schists, which become more highly metamorphosed as the loftier heights of the Musgrave Range and Mount Victoria are reached. On Mount Victoria the schists are very micaceous, highly crystalline, and closely approaching to gneiss; on passing down the river, the country consists of clay schists and slates; while from near the mouth there are specimens of a but slightly altered sandstone.

* Not printed.

The schists are apparently full of quartz veinlets, in which I found no trace of gold by simple washing, but by the iodine test I obtained traces of gold in Nos. 2 and 11.

There is no iron pyrites in the quartz, but as the specimens are from the surface that mineral may have been decomposed.

There are evidences of intrinsive igneous rocks in the schists, but I have no information as to whether they occur as "dykes" or "bosses."

The specimens in bag No. 18, taken from a point between Mount Knutsford and Mount Griffith, are of diorite, containing some needle-shaped crystals of hornblende.

Bags Nos. 6 and 8 contained specimens of a hornblende porphyry taken from the ranges just below the junction of the Evelyn River with the Vanapa River. I examined sections of the above rocks under the microscope; the sections were kindly prepared for me by Mr. Stokes.

Pebbles of basaltic lava occur in the wash from a creek on Mount Belford.

Gold was detected in small quantities in several of the river drifts by the ordinary washing.

The wash in bags Nos. 12 and 16, taken from between the Musgrave and Knutsford Ranges, consisting chiefly of flat schistose pebbles, yielded a trace of gold by careful washing.

In a similar wash from the river at Exton Junction (bag No. 10) no gold was detected.

Gold was detected by the iodine test in a wash from a creek on Mount Belford. Bag No. 19.

Four bags of sand (Nos. 23 to 26) from the Vanapa River, about 17 miles from its mouth, each yielded a small prospect of fine gold on washing.

The presence of gold in these alluvial deposits is of great interest, as showing that the region is to some extent, at any rate, auriferous; but I think it advisable to point out that there is nothing to warrant miners, from any distance, going to prospect this district in its present unsettled state, as the small quantity of gold in the specimens may have come from small leaders only, in the schists.

I discovered no other metals of value in the specimens. The results of this examination are being put on the map of this part of the island, which is being compiled in the Lands Office.

The specimens obtained from the district lying about 50 miles south-east of Port Moresby (Nos. 27 to 40 in the Appendix) are not such as would give much idea of the general geological character of that region.

From Quaipo there are some pieces of coralline limestone, which I propose to send to Mr. Robert Etheridge, Palæontologist to the New South Wales Government, in the hopes that he may be able to determine the probable age of the rock. There is also a piece of limestone from the same place, containing what appears to be the "cast" of a Spirifera, but it is very badly preserved.

The other specimens are chiefly either pebbles or small pieces

of quartz, jasper, lydianized quartz, and limestone. There are also several pieces of oxide of manganese in a hard siliceous matrix.

From the village of Rigo there is a decomposed granitic rock, thin sections of which examined under the microscope are seen to consist of large crystals of orthoclase and oligoclase felspar, hornblende, and magnetite.

The cliffs at Port Moresby itself consist of an impure siliceous limestone, and there are some specimens of quartz containing iron pyrites from the site of Government House at Port Moresby.

The quartz yielded no gold by roasting and washing. I also tried it by the iodine test, but could detect no trace of gold.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. RANDS,
Assistant Government Geologist.

APPENDIX TO APPENDIX F.

No. 1, Bag marked "Top of Mount Victoria."—(*a*) Angular fragments of a hard crystalline, micaceous, and quartzose schist. (*b*) Translucent quartz, the joints of which are coated with white mica, from veins in the schists; two of the pieces of quartz have chlorite schist attached to them.

No. 2. "Vanapa River, Low Hills, 27.4."—Broken fragments of quartz, with clay schist attached to them. This quartz is from veins in the schist. It showed a trace of gold by the iodine test, but not by ordinary washing.

No. 3, "Vanapa River, 30 M., 26.4.89."—Angular fragments of indurated clay schist.

No. 4, "Vanapa River, 26.4.89."—Same as No. 3.

No. 5, "Vanapa River, 35 M., 27.4."—Angular fragments of quartz, with schist attached to them, same as No. 2.

No. 6, "Vanapa River, 29.4."—Fragments of hornblende porphyry. Thin sections examined under the microscope show porphyritic crystals of hornblende, decomposing orthoclase felspar, and magnetite.

No. 7, "Vanapa River, 27 M. up, 28.4.89."—Angular fragments of a decomposed and altered sedimentary rock. Probably an altered sandstone.

No. 8, "25.4.89."—Same as No. 6.

No. 9, "Exton Junction."—(*a*) Fragments of a hard siliceous schist. (*b*) Quartz coated with calcite in a dark clay schist.

No. 10, "Exton Junction."—Water-worn drift of clay schist, with a few pebbles of quartz; no gold in the drift on carefully washing.

No. 11, "Top of Knutsford Range."—(*a*) Angular pieces of micaceous schist. (*b*) Quartz from the veins in the schist showing a trace of gold by the iodine test.

No. 12, "Between Knutsford and Musgrave Ranges.'—A wash consisting of schistose pebbles, with a few pebbles of quartz. A trace of gold detected in this drift by washing.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA,

No. 13, "Mt. Kowald."—Well-cleaved clay slate with quartz veins.

No. 14, "Mt. Musgrave, 8,000 feet."—Decomposed micaceous schist.

No. 15, "Mt. Musgrave, 7,000 feet."—Same as No. 14, with fragments of quartz from veins.

No. 16, "Back of Musgrave Range."—Schistose drift, similar to Nos. 10 and 12. A trace of gold detected in the drift by washing.

No. 17, "Native Camp, Mt. Knutsford, 8,800 feet."—A hard crystalline micaceous schist, very similar to that from Mount Victoria, No. 1.

No. 18, "Mount Knutsford, Upper Vanapa."—Diorite, with porphyritic crystals of hornblende.

No. 19, "Creek on Mt. Belford"—(*a*) Rounded pebbles of basalt, containing olivine and augite. (*b*) An altered greywacke. (*c*) A drift consisting of pebbles of quartz and schist; the presence of gold detected by the iodine test in the drift.

No. 20, "Taura Creek."—(*a*) Fragments of clay schist. (*b*) Quartz from veins in the schist.

No. 21, "Camp No. 2."—(*a*) Angular fragments of clay schist. (*b*) Quartz from veins in the schist.

No. 22, "Camp at Waterfalls."—Angular fragments of clay schist.

No. 23, "Vanapa River, 17 M., 28.4.89."—A yellow sand from the bed of the river, containing coarse pebbles of slate, quartz, and trap rock. The sand consisted chiefly of grains of quartz and schist, with yellow mica, magnetite, ilmenite, and small particles of zircon and topaz; on carefully washing the sand some fine colours of gold were obtained.

No. 24, "Vanapa River, 17 M., 28.4.89."—A yellow sand from the bed of the river, containing some coarse pebbles of schists, slate, quartz, and trap rock. The sand consisted of grains of quartz, with yellow mica, magnetite, ilmenite, zircon, and topaz; some fine colours of gold were obtained on carefully washing the sand.

No. 25, "Vanapa River, 17 M., 28.4.89."—A yellow sand from the bed of the river, containing coarse pebbles of slate, schist, and felspar porphyry. The sand consists of grains of quartz and schist with yellow mica, magnetite, ilmenite, zircon, and topaz. Some fine colours of gold were obtained on carefully washing the sand.

No. 26, "Vanapa River, 17 M., 28.4.89."—A fine reddish sand from the bed of the river, containing a few coarse pebbles of slate. Fine colours of gold were obtained on carefully washing the sand.

No. 27, "Quaipo, 21.2.89."—Fragments of coralline limestone.

No. 28, "Quaipo, 21.2.89."—Impure limestone, containing what appears to be the cast of a spirifera, but it is too indistinct to be named.

No. 29, "Musgrave River, Tributary to Kemp-Welch Larumi, 27.3.89."—(*a*) Water-worn pieces of limestone. (*b*) Rounded

pebbles of basalt, cavities in which are filled with zeolites. (*c*) A pebble of slaty mud rock.

No. 30, "Kirapa Village, Garia, 28.3.89."—Several fragments of an altered and much decomposed rock.

No. 31, "Village of Lakumi, 24.3.89."—A decomposing granitic rock. A section of the above, examined under the microscope, shows it consists of hornblende, orthoclase and oligoclase felspar, magnetite, with viridite along cracks.

No. 32, "West horn of Port Moresby Harbour, from Stratified Cliff."—Fragments of stratified mudstone.

No. 33, "Schistose Cliff, Port Moresby, Quartz, site of Government House."—(*a*) Impure siliceous limestone. (*b*) Quartz containing iron pyrites. I obtained no gold by washing the quartz after roasting.

No. 34, "Sea Cliffs, Port Moresby, Quartz, Government House, 2.4.89."—Same as No. 33. The quartz tried by the iodine test showed no trace of gold.

No. 35, "Broad-arrow, Garia, Gosoru, Rigo, 6.7.89."—(*a*) Black oxide of manganese in a siliceous matrix. (*b*) A hard siliceous rock, with joints filled with calcite. (*c*) Limestone.

No. 36, "Broad-arrow, Garia, Gosoru, Rigo, mixed, 6.3.89."—(*a*) Black oxide of manganese in a siliceous matrix. (*b*) Same as (*a*), but containing less manganese. (*c*) Limestone. (*d*) Altered serpentinous rock.

No. 37, "Broad-arrow, Rigo, mixed, 5.3.89."—(*a*) Jasperised quartz. (*b*) Green jasper. (*c*) Opalescent quartz. (*d*) Pyrolusite (oxide of manganese). (*e*) Pebbles of siliceous rock. (*f*) Carbonate of lime.

No. 38, "Broad-arrow, Kemaia, Rigo, 28.2.89, mixed."—(*a*) Reddish marl. (*b*) Fragments of calcareous grit, containing veins of calcite. (*c*) Jasperised quartz.

No. 39, "Broad-arrow, near to Station Rigo, 25.2.89, mixed."—(*a*) Jasperised quartz. (*b*) Lydianised quartz, with veins of opalescent quartz. (*c*) White quartz. (*d*) Hard fine-grained quartzose rock. (*e*) Slaty mud rock. (*f*) A decomposed trap rock, with calcite, (*g*) opalescent quartz.

No. 40, "Broad-arrow, Saroa, mixed, 1.3.89."—(*a*) Reddish marl, with calcite. (*b*) Mud rock. (*c*) Marl, with a large percentage of oxide of iron.

Report of the Geological Surveyor-in-Charge for the Colony of New South Wales for the Year 1878.

At the end of 1877 I reported upon the first discovery of gold in New Guinea made by Mr. Andrew Goldie. On 7th January 1878 the Rev. Mr. Lawes, missionary from New Guinea, left with me for examination the samples of rocks and river sand which he had collected from near Port Moresby. The evidence which these samples afford of auriferous formation confirms Mr. Goldie's

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

first discovery of alluvial gold in New Guinea. The samples of gold and rocks obtained by Mr. Goldie and the Rev. Mr. Lawes are now in the museum of the Department of Mines, Sydney. A description of these samples is herewith appended. (*See* Appendix.)

FURTHER APPENDIX TO APPENDIX F.

Report on Auriferous and other Specimens from New Guinea.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines,
Sydney, 29 December, 1877.

SIR,—In the late press telegrams from Queensland the announcement is given of the discovery of gold in New Guinea by the Rev. Mr. Lawes and Mr. Goldie's party.

I may inform you that this discovery is in confirmation of what we had anticipated from an examination of the rock specimens already obtained from New Guinea by the Hon. W. Macleay, M.L.C., during his voyage of exploration in the "Chevert," and by Mr. D'Albertis on the Fly River.

Some of the specimens in Mr. Macleay's collection I described in a paper read before the Linnæan Society of New South Wales on the 28th February 1876; but I purposely refrained from making allusion to the probable occurrence of gold-bearing deposits in New Guinea, lest miners might be induced to rush to that inhospitable country, where at present the lives of Europeans would, from well-known causes, be greatly endangered.

For the same reason I was also silent regarding the geological indications of gold-bearing formations, as shown by the collection of rocks obtained by Mr. D'Albertis on the Fly River. Amongst these specimens were stone tomahawks formed from altered sandstone (probably silurian) and greenstone or diorite, containing in some instances iron pyrites. This greenstone, in association with the silurian and devonian beds, is the main source of the auriferous deposits on some of the principal goldfields in New South Wales, and it is therefore suggestive of the occurrence of gold in New Guinea. At the same time we have no reason to expect that richer deposits will be found there than are indicated by the auriferous formations in New South Wales, where we have such a vast tract of known gold-bearing country open for profitable mining enterprise. This fact is worth the careful consideration of those intending gold seekers who may be fascinated by the distant prospect, and to whom the Rev. Mr. Lawes has given such earnest and timely warning against rashly proceeding to Port Moresby, where, the reverend gentleman states, he "is quite sure "great misery and loss of life must ensue if there is any influx of "Europeans during the wet season."

I have, &c.
C. S. WILKINSON,
Geological Surveyor in Charge.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

Memorandum.

Department of Mines, Sydney,
January 17, 1878.

The samples of quartz and auriferous black sand, sent from New Guinea by Mr. Goldie, and submitted for examination by Messrs. Mason Bros., of Pitt street, are as follows :—

The black sand consists almost entirely of small crystalline grains of magnetic oxide of iron and specular iron, with a few small pebbles of limonite, brown oxide of iron, and numerous prismatic and octahedral crystals of zircon, the edges of the crystals not being in the least degree waterworn. There were also a few scales of yellow mica and a little quartz sand.

The sample weighed 7¾ oz., and yielded 5·75 gr. of gold. But this yield affords no certain evidence of the richness of the actual wash-dirt, as we are not furnished with any information as to the number of dishes or quantity of dirt from which Mr. Goldie washed this sample of auriferous sand. The gold was light and scaly, and some of it as fine as dust.

The quartz consisted of broken pieces of very waterworn pebbles or boulders, and showed freely small masses of pale yellow mundic or iron pyrites, but no gold to the naked eye. It, however, yielded on assay at the rate of only 2 dwt. of gold and silver to the ton, the gold being in excess of the silver.

C. S. WILKINSON, L.S., F.G.S.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

List of Geological Specimens collected by the Rev. W. G. Lawes, of the New Guinea Mission.

Specimen.

I. From Kaiputupu— Angular fragment of green siliceous rock, probably silurian schist.

II. Ditto. ditto. ditto.

III. & IV. From Kaiputupu—Quartz from a vein in same green rock.

V. Bed of Kupaloloko—Waterworn fragment of pebble of dark grey quartzite.

VI. Bed of Kupaloloko—Two small angular pieces, similar to II.

VII. Bed of Kupaloloko—Two angular pieces of jasperoid rock, with small veins of chalcedonic quartz.

VIII. Bed of Kupaloloko—Three angular pieces of red jasperoid rock.

IX. Fairfax Harbour—Three angular pieces black oxide of manganese.

X. Fairfax Harbour—Five small waterworn quartz pebbles.

XI. Bed of Kupaloloko—Fragment, 2½ inches long, of a waterworn pebble of indurated schist, probably silurian.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Specimen.

XII. Bed of Kupaloloko—Greenstone, partly waterworn, containing magnetic iron oxide.

XIII. Bed of Kupaloloko—Waterworn pebbles of green siliceous rock, probably altered silurian, similar to Nos. I. and II.

XIV. Ditto. ditto. ditto.

XV. Bed of Kupaloloko—Angular fragment of greenstone.

XVI. Bed of Kupaloloko—Waterworn pebble of greenstone with vein of calcite.

XVII. Bed of Kupaloloko—Pebble of altered black slate, containing small crystals of iron pyrites.

XVIII. Taken out of gizzard of a Goura pigeon—Greenstone pebble ($\frac{3}{4}$-inch by $\frac{1}{2}$-inch in size), similar to No. XII.

XIX. Fairfax Harbour—Angular piece of black oxide of manganese.

XX. Fairfax Harbour—Hard, red jasperoid rock, probably altered silurian.

XXI. From Quaibo—Numerous small waterworn pebbles of quartz, sandstone, slate, and red jasperoid rock.

XXII. Bed of Kupaloloko River, near Mount Vetura—Sample of sand, consisting of about 35 per cent. of black magnetic iron oxide and specular iron, together with quartz, quartzite, trap rock, shale, sandstone, and jasperoid rock. Two assays of this sample gave respectively 3 dwt. 5 gr. and 2 dwt. 19 gr. of gold per ton, averaging 3 dwt. per ton.

XXIII. Bed of Kupaloloko River, near Mount Mumkaihala—Sample of sand, consisting of altered shale and sandstone, quartz and quartzite, trap, and jasperoid rock, and some black magnetic iron oxide.

XXIV. Bed of river between the coast and Mount Astrolabe and south of the latter—Sample of sand, consisting of limestone, tufa, quartz, quartzite, trap rock, altered schist, jasperoid rock, and black magnetic iron oxide.

XXV. Same locality—Sample of sand, consisting of about 10 per cent. of magnetic iron oxide, besides altered shale and sandstone, trap rock, jasperoid rock, and limonite or brown oxide of iron.

XXVI. From head of Hood Bay—Sample of sand, containing some recent marine shells, turritella, &c., and consisting chiefly of decomposed trap and nodules of marl, with some small pebbles of slate, quartz, and jasperoid rock, and a few scales of yellow mica.

From these few but interesting specimens obtained by the Rev. Mr. Lawes we get some insight into the geological character of the country lying to the east of Redscar Bay and Port Moresby. The fragments of slate, sandstone, quartz, greenstones, and jasperoid

rocks, indistinguishable from specimens of the silurian series from some of the goldfields of New South Wales, lead us to infer that the lofty Mount Owen Stanley, Mount Astrolabe, and intervening ranges are to a great extent, if not wholly, composed of these rocks, and are auriferous. The auriferous character of this part of New Guinea I previously suspected, after examining in 1876 the rock specimens collected by the Hon. William Macleay, M.L.C., from Hall's Sound. But we now have evidence of the actual discovery of gold in these parts by Mr. Lawes, on the Kupaloloko River, and by Mr. Goldie, on the Goldie River. One of the above-mentioned samples, No. 22, of river sand, which contained much black magnetic iron sand, was tested, and the average result of two assays gave at the rate of 3 dwt. of gold per ton. Mr. Lawes informs me that the samples were taken to show the character of the sand in the river beds, and were not reduced by washing. Sample No. 22 was obtained from the Kupaloloko River, a stream parallel with the Goldie River, but further east. Both of these streams run into the Laloke River. Mr. Lawes's discovery is therefore the first evidence we have of the existence of gold on the Kupaloloko.

I have carefully examined all the specimens, and could not detect any other metals of value in them. I may state here, again, that these rocks only indicate the occurrence of similar formations to those on the gold-fields of New South Wales, and do not warrant the belief that richer deposits exist in New Guinea than will be found in this Colony.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

APPENDIX G.

Report on Birds from British New Guinea, by C. W. De Vis, Esq., M.A.

Queensland Museum, Brisbane,
August 23, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

THE examination of the birds committed to me has now so far progressed that I am able to place at your service a report on the results. These are in accord with the promise given by the birds on a first inspection, and are of much interest.

I find in all one hundred and sixty-one (161) specimens, representing eighty-two (82) species; of these no fewer than thirteen (13) appear to be hitherto unrecorded, and of the apparent novelties one at least lays claim to generic rank. This is a very distinct kind of Bower Bird, obtained on Mount Knutsford, at an elevation of 11,000 feet, and rivalling the Regent Bird in beauty. The name *Cnemophilus* (Mountain-slope Lover) has been appropriated to it, and the species I propose, with permission, to dedicate

British New Guinea.

to yourself. A second new Bower Bird, constituting a third species of the genus *Amblyornis*, and distinguished by a very ornate crest, will, if allowed, be honoured with the name of Lady MacGregor. It is well to note that the diversity in the structure of the bowers of this and of the other crested species of *Amblyornis* is far greater than the differences in their personal attributes. At your request the name of Mr. Belford, one of your party, has been associated with a capture in which he was concerned, a new honey-eater, of the genus *Melirrhophetes*: a similar compliment has been paid to another member of your collecting staff, Mr. C. Kowald, in connexion with the beautiful genus of flycatchers, *Todopsis*. The number of species procured during the expedition to the Owen Stanley Range was 61, eight of them being apparently new to science.

The expectations of ornithologists who have for some time been awaiting the exploration of that region will thus be in some measure fufilled, notwithstanding that no new Birds of Paradise have been discovered. Perhaps, however, the greatest interest attaching to the ornithological results obtained arises from the fact that the decided change of climate observed at the altitude attained, over 13,000 feet, is not attended by a corresponding change in the types of bird life; it would seem that there is even here no infusion of forms characterising temperate or cold latitudes. It is true that no birds were brought down from the highest points reached, but at 13,000 feet a flycatcher was procured which is essentially Australian in type. The presence of a blackbird, now first discovered in New Guinea, is not in this connexion contradictory, since the genus *Merula* is represented in other of the Pacific Islands.

Some interesting additions to our knowledge of the birds of the Louisiade Archipelago result from your visits to the islands within your jurisdiction. 21 species from East, Sudest, Ferguson, Rossel, and other islets have been determined; of these several cannot be identified with species previously known, so far as I am able to judge. As these birds were procured hurriedly, they doubtless represent but a very small proportion of the several faunas. If it were possible to station a collector on one of the larger islands, Sudest, for example, so that a fairly complete knowledge of its zoology could be obtained, science would be greatly benefited.

I now submit a descriptive list of the birds in your collection :—

1. An owl from Goodenough Island with the uniform upper surface and tail of *N. theomacha*, from which it is distinguished by the bold pattern of its lower surface. It is very like the small owl of the Cardwell district of Queensland, noticed by me as a variety, *lurida*, of *N. boobook*, but which is more probably a distinct species. The tail of the young of *N. boobook* has been stated to be uniform, but this I am not able to confirm, and as *theomacha* is the only *Ninox* so characterised known to me, I am constrained to regard the present bird as undescribed.

NINOX GOODENOVIENSIS, *n. s.*—Upper surface, ear-coverts, and tail brown, all but immaculate. Back, scapulars, and least wing-coverts slightly rufous. Head inclining to ashy brown. Scapulars with a few small concealed white spots. Wings brown, the primaries faintly barred with lighter brown on the upper surface of the inner web; on the under surface at the base with white; beyond the base with ash-grey, the bars ceasing some distance from the tips. Secondaries and tertiaries conspicuously barred with white on both surfaces of the inner web. Tail uniform brown, paler on the lower surface. Frontal and loreal plumes with black shafts and grey webs. Throat brown; upper breast rufous, varied with white; lower breast and abdomen rufous; each feather with a larger median and smaller apical white spot on each side, these spots more or less confluent, the rufous centres forming ill-defined longitudinal bars which are more or less continuous. Thighs rusty white. Under tail-coverts rusty with broad fuscous centres. Edge of wing white. Under wing-coverts rufous; the greater series, fuscous, broadly barred with white. Bill fuscous, the culmen and tip yellowish-white. Feet pinky-brown. Tarsus rufous, with fuscous centres; the feathers descending to the toes. Total length, 285 mm., wing 222, tarsus 31. A second example, with the legs tied as a female, has the head uniform with the rest of the upper surface, and the abdomen with continuous longitudinal bars.

2. MICROGLOSSUS ATERRIMUS, *Gm.* Owen Stanley Range, ascending to about 5,000 feet.
3. NASITERNA BRUIJNI, *Salv.* Musgrave Range, at 8,000 feet.
4. APROSMICTUS CHLOROPTERUS, *Ram.* Owen Stanley Range, at from 7,000 to 9,000 feet.
5. PSITACELLA BREHMII, *Rosenb.* Musgrave Range at 4,500 feet.
6. GEOFFROYUS. A species distinguished from the two red-throated species by a strong wash of yellow on the head visible only in certain lights, and by the absence of the cubital spot.

GEOFFROYUS SUDESTIENSIS, *n. s.*

Male.—Above bright green, beneath paler. Front, cheeks, chin, throat, and ear-coverts cinnabar red, the last tipped with lilac. Head and fore-neck pale lilac-tinted blue, on the vertex strongly tinged in certain lights with yellow. Quills fuscous, first primary narrowly edged with dark blue, rest of quills with their outer webs entirely and inner webs to an increasing extent green. No shoulder spot. Axillaries and under wing-coverts bright blue, under surface of wing fuscous, upper tail-coverts and middle tail feathers above yellowish green, inner webs and under surface of tail greenish-yellow. Rump green. Maxilla red with the tip pale, mandible bluish fuscous Feet fuscous. Total length 240 mm., wing 175, tail 100, bill 24, tarsus 15.

Hab.: Sudest Island.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

7. ECLECTUS CARDINALIS, *Bodd.* Normanby Island.
8. DASYPTILUS PESQUETI, *Less.* Goodwin's Village, at 4,000 feet.
9. LORIUS ERYTHROTHORAX, *Salv.* Foot of Owen Stanley Range.
10. LORIUS HYPOINOCHROUS, *Gr.* St. Aignan; Rossel Island.
11. CORIPHILUS WILHELMINÆ, *Meyer.* Musgrave Range, at 8,500 feet.
12. RHYTIDOCEROS PLICATUS, *Pen.* Owen Stanley Range, at 5,000 feet in company with *Microglossus aterrimus*.
13. CEYX SOLITARIA, *Temm.* Normanby Island.
14. TANYSIPTERA GALATEA, *Gr.* Rossel Island.
15. HALCYON SANCTUS, *Vig. and Hors.* St. Aignan.
16. HALCYON SAUROPHAGA, *Gld.* East Island.
17. SAUROMARPTIS GAUDICHAUDI, *Quoy. and Gaim.* Foot of Owen Stanley Range.
18. EURYSTOMUS CRASSIROSTRIS, *Sclat.* St. Aignan.
19. PODARGUS OCELLATUS, *Quoy. and Gaim.* Ferguson Island; Normanby Island.
20. ÆGOTHELES WALLACEI, *Gr.* Mt. Kowald, at 2,600 feet; Musgrave Range, 4,000 feet.
21. MACROPTERYX MYSTACEA, *Less.* Upper Vanapa River, at 4,500 feet.
22. COLLOCALIA FUCIPHAGA, *Thunb.* St. Aignan.
23. MONARCHA MELANOPTERUS, *Gr.* Sudest Island; Rossel Island.
24. MONARCHA GUTTULATUS, *Garn.* Sudest Island.
25. MONARCHA CHALYBEOCEPHALUS, *Garn.* St. Aignan.
26. RHIPIDURA SETOSA, *Q. and G.* St. Aignan. A bird which I can only regard as a form of this species; the differences —namely, a distinct supraciliary stripe, an almost perfectly uniform grey chest and axillaries and subcaudals (except the tips of the latter, which are white) ochraceous like the abdomen—do not appear to be of specific importance, though as great as those which serve to separate *R. assimilis*, Gr.

7 RHIPIDURA AURICULARIS, *n. s.* Upper surface smoky grey. Head brownish-black; lores, face, and anterior ear-coverts black; posterior ear coverts white, elongate; a broad stripe over the lores and eyes white. Throat white, the feathers with black bases gradually losing their white tips as they approach the chin, which is nearly black; a broad pectoral band black, well defined from the throat. Middle of lower breast and abdomen buff, the former varied with black; sides of the breast and abdomen and the flanks dark-grey; subcaudals white with black bases. Wing coverts black: the least with a few minute white tips; the median with larger white tips forming a transverse row, the greatest with still larger forming a broad bar across the wing. Quills externally uniform dark-brown. Tail brownish-black above and below; the three outer feathers with narrow white tips. Innermost axillaries

white, black on the basal half. Under wing-coverts white varied with black, under surface of wing ashy brown; the primaries edged with grey, secondaries and tertiaries with buffy grey. Bill dark-brown. Mandible white with the tip brown. Legs black. Total length 145 mm., wing 82, tail 90, tarsus 16, culmen 6.

Hab.: Musgrave Range, from 7,000 to 9,000 feet altitude. The closest allies of this flycatcher are *javanica* and *nigritorquis* in Java and the Philippines respectively.

28. PÆCILODRYAS (?) SIGILLATA, *n. s.*

Adult.—Wholly black, except a black-centred white patch, including the bases of the penultimate inner tertiaries, and all but the tips of the innermost. Bill, legs and feet black. Total length 150, wing 102, tail 72, culmen 9, tarsus 28, middle toe 20, hallux without claw 8.

Young.—Above rufous brown with narrow pale shaft streaks; the feathers growing black in patches; inner tertiaries with a broad whitish shaft stripe; rump brighter rufous. Tail fuscous brown, the laterals slightly edged with rufous, below fuscous brown. The feathers of the sides and lower abdomen becoming black; throat and breast with conspicuous pale streaks widening at the apex. Under surface of wing and tail ashy brown. Wing-coverts chestnut brown with buffy white tips, the median series forming a transverse, the greatest an oblique bar across the wing; under wing-coverts fuscous. Bill, legs, and feet dark brown.

Hab.: Mount Victoria, at 13,000 feet. It is probably doing too much violence to the genus *Pœcilodryas* to place in it the present bird, which has longer and stouter legs and feet than even most of the *Tarsigers*, and a wing reaching to within the length of the hallux (without claw) from the tip of the tail. The tarsus is nearly thrice the length of the culmen, and the feet outstretched pass beyond the tip of the tail.

29. PÆCILODRYAS CYANA, *Salv.* Mount Kowald, 2,500 feet.

30. MICRÆCA LÆTA, *Salv.* Musgrave Range, from 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

31. TODOPSIS. A species of unusual size (al. 85), allied to *T. wallacei*, G. R. Gr., but with the upper auriculars white and the whole body brown and buff. On the ticket attached to the skin it is said to be a male, if so, it may be a young male in female plumage. According to Salvadori the sexes in *T. wallacei* are alike.

TIDOPSIS KOWALDI, *n. s.*

Male, young (?).—Head black, surrounded by feathers largely tipped with ultramarine blue forming a coronial cincture. Lower ear-coverts dark brown, upper white tinged with blue at the tips, and elongate. Upper surface olive-brown. Wings brown, wing-coverts rather darker brown, a few of the median and greatest series minutely

British New Guinea.

tipped with buff. Quills externally edged with yellowish-brown. Tail uniform brown, paler below. Lower surface and cheeks buff deepening from nearly white on the throat to deep buff on the lower abdomen; subcaudals rufous. Flanks and thighs olive-brown. Edge of wing, axillaries and under wing-coverts isabel; under surface of wing ashy-brown; inner edge of quills pale salmon. Bill dark brown; mandible pale yellow at the side of the base; legs dark brown. Length 155, wing 85, tail 60, culmen 14, tarsus 29.

32. Graucalus cæruleogriseus, *G. R. Gr.* Mount Belford, 6,000 feet; Musgrave Range, 8,000 feet.

33. Graucalus subalaris, *Shp.* Mount Kowald, 2,000 feet.

34. Graucalus longicauda, *n. s.*

Male.—Head, neck, wings, tail, chin, and throat black, the last circumscribed—the head, neck, chin, and throat lustrous. Back, rump, supracaudals, breast, abdomen, and subcaudals grey. Innermost tertiaries on outer web and upper wing-coverts ashy-grey—under wing-coverts ashy-grey edged with dark grey. Bill, legs, and feet black. Total length 330, wing 180, tail 180, bill 22, tarsus 28.

Hab.: Musgrave Range, 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

As it is possible that this sp. may be identifiable with *G. lettiensis*, Mey., or *G. timorlaoensis*, Mey., descriptions of which are not yet to hand, the characters given are to be considered merely provisional.

35. Lalage karu, *Less.* St. Aignan, Normanby Island.

36. Dicruropsis carbonaria, *Müll.*

37. Chætorhynchus papuensis, *Mey.* Musgrave Range, from 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

38. Strepera rosa-alba, *n.s.*

Female.—General colour above and below, black; head a little mottled with grey. A rosette in front of the shoulder; axillaries, inner tertiaries at the base of both webs forming a stripe along the wing, preanals, subcaudals, distal supra-caudals, and a large spot near the tip of the inner webs of the two outermost rectrices, white. Legs and feet black. Bill dingy white, stained irregularly with blue, and with a bluish-black tip. Total length 285, wing 154, tail 136, tarsus 28, bill 40, 20 in height, and 18 in breadth at the base.

The first primary is less than three-fourths of the second in length; the tip of the wing is formed by the fourth and fifth, but the third is nearly equal to them in length. Culmen a little decurved, and feebly hooked at the tip; rectal bristles present; tarsal scutes completely fused; hallux shorter than middle toe. These details are given because the bird does not fit well into either Strepera, Gymnorhina, or Cracticus.

Hab.: Sudest Island.

39. RHECTES DICHROUS, *Bp.*

40. COLLURICINCLA.—Distinguished from *melanorhyncha* by the rather bright olive-green of the upper surface contrasting with the clear dull brown of the head and neck, and by other characters.

COLLURICINCLA DISCOLOR, *n. s.*

Male.—Back, scapulars, rump, supracaudals, edge of secondary, outer webs of tertiaries, and edges of tail feathers olive-green washed with yellow, especially on the rump. Head, neck, and hind neck brown, contrasting with the back. Wing and tail brown. Lower surface brownish-white fading to white on throat and chin and middle of lower abdomen, browner and washed with yellow on sides of breast and flanks. Subcaudals pale citron-yellow. Feathers of lower throat with dusky central streaks.. Under wing-coverts dark grey with broad pale-grey edges. Edge of wing grey, under surface of wing ashy brown, the edges of the quills pale grey. Bill black. Legs and feet dark brown. Total length 180, wing 103, tail 88, bill 20, tarsus 25.

Hab.: Sudest Island. Three examples, two males, one female.

41. PACHYCEPHALA SCHLEGELII, *Rosemb.* Musgrave Range, 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

42. PRISTORHAMPHUS VERSTERI, *Finsch.* Mount Musgrave, at 8,000 feet.

43. MYZOMELA NIGRITA, *Gr.* St. Aignan.

44. MYZOMELA ROSENBERGII, *Sclat.* Mount Knutsford, at 1,900 feet.

45. MYZOMELA CINERACEA, *Sclat.* Rossel Island.

46. MELIRRHOPHETES OCHROMELAS, *Mey.* Mount Knutsford.

47. MELIRREOPHETES.

It is chiefly on the probable assumption that the young female of *M. leucostephes*, Mey., does not greatly differ from the young male that I venture to describe the present species as—

MELIRRHOPHETES BELFORDI, *n. s.*

Female, Young.—Front, synciput, lores, subocular region, and ear-coverts dull black. A broad stripe commencing over the middle of the eye and running back towards the occiput, white. Naked ocular and temporal region apparently deep blue; lower eye-lid apparently red. Chin and throat greyish-black, bounded above by a broad white stripe descending from the mandible; hind neck brownish-grey; nape and lower back greyish-brown mantle and wing-coverts fuscous, the feathers broadly margined with grey; upper tail-coverts brown, faintly margined with olive; under surface and sides of neck grey-brown; the feathers of the abdomen faintly tipped with grey. Thighs fuscous-brown; under tail coverts and adjacent feathers of the flanks ferruginous. Wing-coverts

British New Guinea.

fuscous; the greater series narrowly edged with olive-green. Quills brown; all but the first and second primaries edged externally with golden green; under wing-coverts ashy grey; under surface of wings ashy-brown. Tail brown; the feathers narrowly edged with golden-green, and very narrowly tipped with greyish-white. Bill black. Legs and feet reddish-brown. Wattle pink. Total length 280 mm., wing 160 mm., culmen 33 mm., tail 145, tarsus 35, wattle 8 mm.

Hab.: Mount Knutsford.

48. Ptilotis subfrenata, *Salv.* Musgrave Range.
49. Ptilotis erythropleura, *Salv.* Musgrave Range.
50. Tropidorhynchus novæ-guineæ, *Müll.*—Normanby Island.
51. Zosterops pallidipes, *n. s.*

Male.—Generally similar to *brunneicauda*, Salv., and perhaps only a local form. The lower surface is less yellow, that colour being largely diluted with greenish-yellow. The legs and feet are pale flesh-pink. The whole mandible and the edge of the maxilla towards the tip yellowish-white.

Hab.: Rossel Island.

52. Pitta rubrinucha, *Wall.* Exton Junction, 1,200 feet.
53. Eupetes leucosticus, *Sclat.*
54. Eupetes castanotus, *Salv.* Mount Knutsford, at 2,000 feet.
55. Merula papuensis, *n. s.*

Upper surface bright dark-brown, paler and duller on the head; chin and throat pale greyish-brown, forming a gorget clearly distinguishable in a side-light from the dark brown of the breast and abdomen—these are paler and duller than the upper surface. Præanal feathers white-tipped, under tail-coverts with pale shafts, and obscurely tipped with pale rufous brown. Thighs pale brown; legs and feet pale yellow: claws dusky towards the tips; bill yellow. Total length 350, wing 135, bill 20, tarsus 35, tail 110, first primary 25.

In a second example, apparently not fully adult, the guttural gorget blends with the colour of the breast. The whole bird is paler and duller, and the markings of the under tail-coverts and præanal feathers are more pronounced. Bill orange, legs and feet gamboge yellow, first primary 15 mm.

Hab.: Mount Victoria.

56. Calornis metallica, *Temm.* St. Aignan.
57. Manucodia comrei, *Sclat.*
58. Manucodia chalybeata, *Pen.*
59. Phonygama hunsteini, *Shp.*
60. Phonygama purpureoviolaceus, *Mey.* Goodwin Spur, 5,000 feet.

61. PAROTIA SEXPENNIS, *Bodd.* Mount Belford, 3,600 to 7,000 feet.

62. LOPHORHINA SUPERBA, *Pen.* Goodwin Spur, 5,000 to 7,000 feet.

63. EPIMACHUS MEYERI, *Finsch.*

In the collection are four adult and two young males of an *Epimachus*. The young examples correspond so closely to the type of *E. meyeri*, except in a greater length of bill, that I can hardly doubt the correctness of the opinion entertained by the collectors that these are males of the species named. If so, a description of the male has been given by Dr. Ramsay under the name of *E. Macleayanæ*. Musgrave Range, 6,000 to 9,000 feet.

64. ASTRARCHIA STEPHANIÆ, *F. and M.*

Female.—Above brackish-brown tinged with rufous-brown except on the head, wings, and tail. Head, face, ear-coverts, and chin nearly black. Throat and upper breast blackish-brown, the latter circumscribed. Remainder of lower surface, subcaudals, and under wing-coverts with alternate bars of blackish-brown and buffy-yellow, the latter broader. Base of shafts of middle tail feathers white. Bill, legs, and feet black. Length 510, tail 340, wing 153, bill 28, tarsus 37. The two middle tail feathers concave on the upper surface of the apical half.

Hab.: Mount Knutsford, at 8,000 feet.

65. PARADISEA RAGGIANA, *Sclat.* *Passim*, to 3,000 feet.

66. PARADISEA DECORA, *Salvin and God.* Ferguson Island only, according to collectors.

67. DIPHYLLODES MAGNIFICA, *Pen.* Mount Knutsford, 3,000 to 4,000 feet.

68. CINCINNURUS REGIUS, *Lin.* *Passim*, to 2,000 feet.

69. PTILORHIS MAGNIFICA, *Vieill.* Mount Kowald, 2,500 feet.

70. AMBLYORNIS SUBALARIS, *Shp.* Musgrave Range, 6,000 to 9,000 feet.

71. AMBLYORNIS. A handsome species with a horizontal crest radiating from the synciput over the shoulders or middle of the back. Chin and throat without shaft streaks. Axillaries deep isabel. Culmen 20, wing 140–148. Female with the plumes of the sides and back of the head long and dense.

AMBLYORNIS MACGREGORIÆ, *n. s.*

Adult male.—Upper surface brown; back, rump, and upper tail coverts olive-brown; sides of the neck olive-brown with or without a fulvous tinge; ear-coverts, supraciliaries, loreal and frontal regions rufous-brown; crest silky orange-red, the central feathers moderately, the laterals largely, tipped with olive-brown. Wing-coverts and wings externally as the back. Lower surface pale fulvous olive-brown with a silky sheen, little or no paler on the lower abdomen; thighs brown. Edge of the wing and axillaries deep isabel; lower surface of primaries brownish-grey with

British New Guinea.

a strong yellow sheen not extending to the inner webs and tips; base of the inner webs dull yellow; under wing-coverts pale isabel. Tail brown, yellowish on the lower surface of the outer web, under surface of shafts of quills and rectrices yellow. Legs and feet black. Bill brownish black, the mandible slightly paler. Total length of skins 245–255 mm., wing 142–148 mm., culmen 20 mm., tarsus 37 mm.

Adult female.—Upper surface olive-brown slightly tinged with fulvous on the back and wing-coverts, more deeply on the nape and head, of which the feathers are lengthened and form a dense cope extending on the nape. Wings and tail as in the male. Lores, sides of face, and ear-coverts dull brown, the last with pale shaft streaks. Lower surface pale rufous-brown more or less tinged with olive-brown. Axillaries and under wing-coverts pale isabel as in the male of *A. subalaris*, under surface of wing ashy-brown faintly tinged with yellow towards the tips of the quills, which are edged with pale dull yellow towards the base of the inner webs. Throat with narrow pale shaft streaks. Thighs brown. Tail above brown, beneath brown faintly washed with dull yellow. Legs and feet black; maxilla dark fuscous; mandible paler, especially on under surface.

Hab.: Musgrave Range, 7,000 to 9,000 feet; 2 males, 3 females.

Dedicated to Lady MacGregor.

Nothing in the history of the bower birds, so far as we know it, is of greater interest than the specific modifications developed in that strange instinct whence they derive their popular name. From its rudimentary indications in *Scenopœus*, which merely deposits and rearranges a few leaves or twigs on the bared ground, to the elaborate structure of *Amblyornis inornata*, continuous steps of progress in the art of bower-building are recognisable. The general plan of these highly artificial constructions, their deviations from it, their materials and garniture, the methods of work adopted by the birds, their sexual shares in the labour, and the comparative permanence of its results —all these are well worth the investigation of the field naturalist; still more so the development of the instinct considered as a psychical manifestation.

The bower of *A. macgregoriæ* departs widely from the ordinary plan of a more or less completely roofed gallery or tunnel through which the birds run to and fro. Around a young tree growing on the slope of a bank or ridge a circular mass of sticks intermingled with moss, and 45 inches in diameter, is built with perpendicular sides to a height varying from 9 inches to 2 feet, the moss being used so copiously that externally it alone is visible. On the upper surface a circular channel 9 inches in depth is left between the tree and the outer edge of the pile.

The outer wall of the channel is 9 inches in breadth; so also is its inner wall or the raised boss from the centre of which the tree protrudes. All round the tree itself to a considerable height above the platform are fixed short sticks, interlaced at one end, protruding at the other, as though to form a protection against the approach of an enemy from above. The depressed channel of the upper surface is the playground of the bird; in it several individuals of both sexes may be seen pursuing each other round and round. Mr. Kowald, who saw one of these bowers being built, states that all the materials are selected and conveyed by the males to females, who alone are the architects. Mr. Kowald is strongly of opinion that the increase of the bower in height is almost constantly in progress, and that each is used by the same birds for years in succession.

72. CNEMOPHILUS, *n. g.*—PTILINORHYNCHIDÆ. Bill shorter than head, broader than high; culmen rounded, curved towards the tip; edge of maxilla notched at the tip; nostril basal, oval, almost concealed by elongated nasal plumes directed forwards; basal profile of mandible straight. Wing short, rounded, reaching to tarsus; primaries longer than secondaries by half the length of the hallux without claw, first primary two-thirds of the second in length; tip of wing formed by the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th quills. Tarsus moderate in length, stout; scutellation entire fore and aft. Feet strong, hallux equalling the mid toe without claw; laterals unequal.

CNEMOPHILUS MACGREGORII. Loreal, frontal, and nasal plumes elongate, and forming a fronto-nasal crest; from its frontal end a compressed backwardly curved crest of four feathers reaching the occiput; feathers of head parted mesially forming a groove for reception of the crest. Lower part of fronto-nasal crest chestnut black, upper part, front, and over fore part of orbit fiery orange-red. Head, neck, and upper back golden yellow, with a strong silky sheen; frontal crest golden brown; lower back, rump, and supra-caudals passing from the golden-yellow of the mantle to brownish-yellow. Wings and tail cinnamon-brown; under surface of wings cinnamon-brown, much paler on edges of quills; under wing-coverts pale brown varied with black; all the lower surface, cheeks, a narrow line over the eye, ear-coverts, and thighs black. Legs and feet dark brown. Bill dark-brown, with the tip paler. Total length to end of wing 180, wing 100, bill 18, tarsus 37.

Hab.: Mount Knutsford, at 11,000 feet.—1 male.

Of the habits of this bird we have no information; it was shot by one of the party at some distance from their camp; no other was seen. The systematic place of the genus seems to be between *Amblyornis* and *Xanthomelus*.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

73. ÆLURÆDUS STONEI, *Shp.* Mount Belford, at 4,000 feet.
74. PTILOPUS SUPERBUS, *Temm.* Sudest Island.
75. PTILOPUS BELLUS, *Sclat.* Mainland, *passim* to 4,000 feet
76. PTILOPUS EUGENIÆ, *Gld.* Ferguson Island.
77. PTILOPUS RIVOLII, *Prev.* St. Aignan, East Island.
78. MACROPYGIA NIGRIROSTRIS, *Salv.* St. Aignan, Rossel Island.

    Adult Female.—On further acquaintance this will probably appear to be a distinct species. It has a wash of grey on the head, a rather strong green lustre on the neck; the bars on the tail are quite faint, and the subapical band of the external remix is lead grey.

79. GYMNOPHAPS ALBERTISII, *Salv.* Cæsar Spur.
80. JANTHÆNAS ALBIGULARIS, *Bp.* Mount Gleeson, at 1,600 feet.
81. TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCOS, *L.* Sudest Island.
82. ESACUS MAGNIROSTRIS, *Geoff.* Ferguson Island.

I am, &c.

C. W. DE VIS.

Sir William MacGregor, K.C.M.G.

APPENDIX H.

Report on Reptiles from British New Guinea, by C. W. De Vis, Esq., M.A.

Queensland Museum, Brisbane,
September 17, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE now to submit my report on the reptiles collected during your expedition to the Owen Stanley Range and placed in my hands for identification.

They consist of two species of lizards, ten of snakes, and one frog.

The snake-like lizard (*Lialis*) is common to Australia and New Guinea; the sleeping lizard (*Cyclodus*) is in Australia represented by other species; both are perfectly harmless.

Of the snakes, also, the great majority are innocuous; the death-adder (*Acanthophis*) and the whip snake (*Diemansia*) are, indeed, the only kinds to be dreaded. With the exception of the tree snake (*Dendrophis*), the rest are the constrictors *Liasis*, *Chondropython*, *Aspidopython*, and *Enygrus*, and the colubrine snakes *Lycodon*, *Mainophis*, and *Pappohis*. It is clear that deadly snakes are not to be added to the imaginary terrors of the Papuan climate. Four of the snakes represented are Australian species.

The sole exemplar of the Batrachians is a little frog which I am compelled to regard as a new species of its genus—*Michrohyla*.

I append a list of the reptiles, and these with the tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus dorianus*, Ram.) will complete the tale of the vertebrates which, on this occasion, you have been good enough to entrust to me for examination.

I am, &c.

C. W. DE VIS.

His Honour Sir William MacGregor, K.C.M.G.

Lizards.

	Specimens.
Lialis burtonii, *Gr.*	2
Cyclodus gigas, *Schn.*	1

Snakes.

Liasis amethystinus, *Schn.*	1
Chondropython azureus, *Pet.*	1
Aspidopython jakati, *Pet.*	2
Enygrus carinatus, *Schn.*	2
Lycodon cucullatus	1
Pappophis flavigastra, *Macl.*	1
Mainophis robusta, *Macl.*	1
Dendrophis punctulata, *Gr.*	4
Diemansia olivacea, *Gr.*	1
Acanthophis antarctica, *Wage.*	1

Batrachian.

Microhyla, *sp.*	1

Note on a Collection of Lepidoptera from S.E. New Guinea.
By W. H. Miskin, F.E.S.

A collection of Lepidoptera made by Sir Wm. MacGregor in connexion with his recent expedition to and ascent of the Mount Owen Stanley Range in S.E. New Guinea has been placed in my hands for examination.

A glance at the specimens—confirmed upon closer inspection—conveyed the impression that they represented only the fauna of the lower altitudes, although as a fact they were collected at some distance from the coast, proving, with but two or three exceptions, to be species already known to science.

Sir William was unfortunately unable to give attention to this branch of zoology during his explorations of the higher altitudes,

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

where new forms of the greatest interest might be anticipated to occur.

The following is a list of the species contained in the collection :—

RHOPOLOCERA.

Fam. PAPILIONIDÆ, *Leach.*

Sub. Fam. PAPILIONINÆ, *Swain.*

Genus ORNITHOPTERA, Bois.

1. (Female.) O. PRIAMUS, *L.* Mus. Ulr., p. 182 (1764).

Genus PAPILIO, L.

2. (Male.) P. ULYSSES, *L.* Mus. Ulr., p. 201 (1764).
5. P. INDICATUS, *Butler.* An. Nat. Hist. (4) XVIII., p. 248, n. 92 (1876).
3. (Male and Female.) P. ORMENUS, *Guer.* Voy. Coq., t. 14, f. 3 (1829).
4. (Female.) P. NICANOR, *Felder.* Reise. Nov. Lep. I., p. 102, n. 78, t. 10, f. c. d. (1865).
6. P. SARPEDON, *L.* Mus. Ulr., p. 196 (1764).
7. P. EURPHYLUS, *L.* Mus. Ulr., p. 216 (1764).
8. P. AGAMEMNON, *L.* Mus. Ulr., p. 202 (1764).

Sub. Fam. PIERINÆ, *Swain.*

Genus TERIAS, Swain.

10. T. HECABE, *L.* (*Pap. H.*) Mus. Ulr., p. 249 (1764).
9 T. VIRGO, *Wallace.* Trans. Ent. Soc., Ser. III., vol. IV., p. 328, n. 35 (1867).

Genus PIERIS, Schrank.

11. P. PERISTHENE, *Bois.* Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr., p. 155, n. 4 (1859).
12. (Female.) P. TEUTONIA, *Fab.* (*Pap. T.*) Syst. Ent., p. 474, n. 137 (1775).

Genus TACHYRIS, Wallace.

28. (Male.) T. CELESTINA, *Bois.* (*Pier C.*) Voy. Astr. Lep., p. 46, n. 1 (1832).

Genus CALLIDRYAS, Bois.

13. (Female.) C. CROCALE, *Cr.* (*Pap. C.*) Pap. Ex. I., t. 55, C. D. (1779).

Fam. NYMPHALIDÆ, *Swain.*

Sub. Fam. DANAINÆ, *Bates.*

Genus DANAIS, Latr.

14. (Female.) D. FERRUGINEA, *Butler.* An. Nat Hist. (4) XVIII., p. 240, n. 1 (1876).
15. D. ERIPPUS, *Cr.* (*Pap. E.*) Pap. Ex. I., t. 3 A.B. (1775).

Genus EUPLŒA, Fab.

17. (Male) 20. (Female.) E. USIPETES, *Hew.* Ex. Butt. II., Eup. t. 1, f. 4 (1858).
19. (Male and Female.) E. SPARTACUS, *n. sp.*

Male.—Upper side dark chestnut-brown. *Primaries* with a sub-marginal row of well-defined round bluish-white spots, numbering six from apex to space between second and third median branches.

Under side the same, with the white spots of primaries less in size, and only five in number and an additional larger oval one in space between second and third median branches near centre; sexual mark represented by one small oval spot on under side replaced by large colourless marginal patch; outer margin of primaries considerably convex, hinder margin excessively so. *Secondaries* very ample; costal margin of secondaries upper side with large colourless patch.

Female.—Upper side as in male; outer margin of secondaries somewhat lighter in colour.

Under side as in male; a small light patch corresponding with sexual mark in male.

Thorax and abdomen above and beneath dark brown. Exp. 3 in.

16. (Male.) E. EURIANASSA, *Hew.* Ex. Butt. II., Eup. t. 1, f. 2 (1858).
20. (Male.) E. SUADA, *n. sp.*

Male.—Upper side velvety, dense, pitch-brown. *Primaries* with the outer margin slightly lighter; a double large apical bluish-white patch; two or three not very distinct white specks at intervals along outer margin. *Secondaries* with wide light-brown margins.

Under side, basal and discal areas dark-brown, marginal areas lighter. *Primaries* with two apical white spots; three central spots, one within the cell, the other two below and beyond; three small specks above and beyond end of cell. *Secondaries* with a curved row of five small blue specks around end of cell. Sexual bands, two, also visible beneath; outer margins of primaries slightly convex, hind margin moderately so.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Thorax and abdomen, above and beneath, dark brown. Exp. $2\frac{9}{12}$ in.

18. (Male.) E. TREITSCHKEI, *Bois.* Voy. Astr. Lep., p. 98, n. 9 (1832).

Genus HAMADRYAS, Bois.

22. H. ZOILUS, *F.* (*Pap. Z.*) Syst. Ent., p. 480, n. 163 (1775).

Sub. Fam SATYRINÆ, *Bates.*

Genus MELANITIS, F.

35. M. AMABILIS, *Bois.* (*Cyllo. A.*) Voy. Astr. Lep., p. 140, t. 2, f. 1, 2 (1832).

Sub. Fam. MORPHINÆ, *Butl.*

Genus DRUSILLA, Swain.

33. D. CATOPS, *Westw.* Gen. D. L., p. 335, n. 3, note (1851).

Sub. Fam. ACRÆINÆ, *Bates.*

Genus ACRÆA, F.

31. A. ANDROMACHA, *F.* (*Pap. A.*) Syst Ent., p. 466, n. 102 (1775).

Sub. Fam. NYMPHALINÆ, *Bates.*

Genus CETHOSIA, F.

23. C. CYDIPPE, *L., var.* CHRYSIPPE, *F.* (*Pap. C.*), Syst. Ent., p. 503, n. 252 (1775).

Genus CIRROCHROA, Doubl.

27. C. DUCALIS, *Wall.* Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 340 (1869).

Genus CYNTHIA, F.

24. (Male.) C. ARSINOE, *Cr.* (*Pap. A.*) Pap. Ex. II., t. 160, B.C. (1779).

Genus MESSARAS, Doubl.

26. M. TURNERI, *Butl.* Ann. Nat. Hist. (4) XVIII., p. 244, n. 17 (1876).

Genus JUNONIA, Hub.

29. (Male.) I. ORITHYA, *L.* (*Pap. O.*) Mus. Ulr., p. 278 (1764).
30. I. VELLIDA, *F.* (*Pap. V.*) Mant. Ins. II., p. 35, n. 366 (1787).

Genus PRECIS, Hub.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

32. P. TRISTIS, *n. sp.*

Male.—Upper side—Smoky-brown. *Primaries:* Apical area, including end of cell, black; cell traversed about middle by short black band, between this and base line also traversing cell, between these lines reddish-brown; a curved transverse row, beyond end of cell, from costa downwards, of four white triangular spots, the points towards apex; a row of small white specks from near apical angle to near centre of outer margin, where it meets a large white spot; below the latter a round black spot surrounded with ring of reddish brown; a submarginal row of light-brown irregularly shaped spots. *Secondaries:* Margined with black; a marginal line of light brown, succeeded by a line of black, and within this a submarginal row of ocelli, black-ringed with reddish-brown, the largest near to apex.

Under side—Rich reddish-brown. *Primaries:* With three light-brown bands crossing cell at equal distances apart; beyond cell a transverse short row of yellowish pointed spots, corresponding with same on upper side; from this towards apex greyish; ocellus as on upper side, with large patch of white above and outside of it towards margin; a line of black through the white; a white speck near apex. *Secondaries:* Shining, with a darker transverse band rather beyond centre; marginal row of ocelli almost obsolete.

Thorax and abdomen above, dark brown; beneath, light brown. Exp. $2\frac{3}{12}$ in.

Genus DOLESCHALLIA, Feld.

36. D. BISALTIDÆ, *Cr., var.* NACAR, *Bois.* (*Amathusia N.*) Voy. Astr. Lep., p. 128 (1832).

Genus CYRESTIS, Bois.

25. C. ACILIA, *Godt.* (*Nymph A.*) Enc. Meth. IX., p. 378, n. 94 (1819).

Genus DIADEMA, Bois.

37. (Female.) D. BOLINA, *L.* (*Pap. B.*) Mus. Ulr., p. 295 (1764).

38. D. ALIMENA, *L.* (*Pap. A.*) L. c., p. 291 (1764).

34. (Female.) D. TYDEA, *Feld.* Reise. Nov. Lep. III., p. 415, n. 636, t. 55, f. 1-4 (1867).

Genus ATHYMA, Westw.

21. A. VENILIA, *L.* (*Pap. V.*) Mus. Ulr., p. 290 (1764).

British New Guinea.

Fam. LYCÆNIDÆ, *Steph.*

Genus DANIS, F.

44. (Male.) 43. (Female.) D. Aleuas, *Feld.* (*Lyc. A.*) Reise. Nov. Lep. II., p. 268, n. 325, t. 33, f. 15, 16 (1865).
45. (Male.) D. Hymetus, *Feld.* (*Lyc. H.*) L. c. 266, n. 320, t. 33, f. 22–24 (1865).

Genus LYCÆNA, F

46. L. Pallida, *n. sp.*

Male.—Upper side dull lilac-blue, darker towards base.

Under side very pale brown, with double parallel white lines, rather darker between, forming transverse bands. *Primaries:* Short one at end of cell; beyond this one rather indistinct across wing. *Secondaries:* A basal band not reaching across wing; another beyond, reaching quite across wing; another near outer margin at parts coalescing with previous band; sub-marginal row of sagittate markings; a black spot surmounted by scarlet crescent between second and third median branches.

Thorax and abdomen, above, dark brown; beneath, grey. Exp., 35 mm.

47. (Male.) L. Nemea, *Feld.* Reise. Nov. Lep. II., p. 270, n. 330, t. 34, f. 14–15 (1865).

Genus HYPOCHRYSOPS, Feld.

42. (Female.) N. Eucletus, *Feld.* L. c. 253, n. 299 (1865).

Genus AMBLYPODIA, Horsf.

41. A. Obscura, *n. sp.*

Upper side, black; base, and diffused well into discal area, dense purple.

Under side, shining lilaceous brown, with transverse bands, and rows of spots of dark brown. *Primaries* with hinder margin lighter; three short bands across cell, the basal one being very small, and the terminal one very broad, the central one with a contiguous small blue speck; beyond the cell a broad transverse band across the wing, a marginal and sub-marginal one less distinct. *Secondaries* three spots transversely at base, then three longer ones also transversely beyond, then a short broken band from cell to abdominal margin, followed by a wide broken band a little beyond middle from costa to abdominal margin; a sub-marginal band, and a marginal line; four sub-marginal oval spots of metallic green; an oval spot of black below the green; another black marginal spot in space

between the second and third median branches. Tails, black, tipped with white.

Thorax and abdomen above, black; beneath, brown. Exp. 46 mm.

39. (Male.) A. AZENIA, *Hew.* Ill. D. Lep., p. 7, n. 23, t. 3, f. 12–13 (1863).

40. (Male.) A. AEXONE, *Hew.* L. c. 5, n. 15, t. 3, f. 20–24 (1863).

Fam. HESPERIDÆ, *Leach.*

Genus ISMENE, Swain.

48. I. STROPHIUS, *n. sp.*

Upper side.—Jet black; base of both wings metallic greenish-blue.

Under side.—Black. *Primaries:* With short light green band across middle of cell, below this a square lighter green patch; a faint green line at end of cell, and below it a small green patch; three small green spots transversely from costa towards apex; an indistinct sub-marginal line from apex downwards; a large white patch near hinder angle close to hind margin. *Secondaries:* With a few indistinct discal specks; an irregular narrow band parallel with outer margin, rather indistinct until near anal angle, when it is developed into a bright green elongate spot.

Thorax and head, above and beneath, metallic green. Abdomen above, black, beneath brown. Antennæ, black. Exp. 53 mm.

HETEROCERA.

Fam. CYDAMONIDÆ.

Genus NYCTALEMON, Dalm.

1. N. PATROCLUS, *L.* (*Pap. P.*) Syst. Nat., p. 749, n. 24 (1767). *Drury.*—Ill. Ex. Ins. I., pp. 14, 16, t. 6, f. 1, t. 8, f. 1 (1770). *Cramer.*—Pap. Ex. II., p. 19, t. 109, f. a.b. (1779).

2. 3, 4. N. ORONTES, *L.* (*Pap. O.*) Syst. Nat., p. 750, n. 27 (1767). *Cramer.*—Pap. Ex. I., p. 130, t. 83, f. a.b. (1779).

Fam. HYPSIDÆ.

Genus HYPSA.

6. H. CARICÆ, *Don.* Ins. N. H. (1805).

Fam. LITHSODIÆ.

Genus TYNDARIS.

7. (Female.) L. LÆTIFICA, *Feld.* Reise. Nov. Lep., t. 137, f. 18, 19, 20 (1867).

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Fam. GEOMETRIDÆ.

Genus STROPHIDA.

5. (Male.) S. PHANTASMAH, *Feld. and Rog.* Reise. Nov. Lep., t. 128, f. 40, male (1867).

The collection is interesting as displaying the similarity of the New Guinea fauna with that of N.E. Australia, there being no less than 23 of the 53 species contained common to both regions; while of the 31 genera represented 25 are found in both countries.

Description of a new Rhytida from New Guinea by C. Hedley, F.L.S., Assistant in Zoology to the Queensland Museum.

From the highest summit (13,000 feet) of the Owen Stanley Range two land shells were brought down by Sir W. MacGregor and committed for examination to the Queensland Museum. As these are the first traces of molluscan life collected in the New Guinea mountains, and as no form at all resembling them is described by Sig. Tapparone-Canefri, I feel some confidence in deciding them to be a hitherto unknown species. More globose than others of the genus known to me, the glossy exterior, nacreous interior, characteristic colour and sculpture, stamp it as a Rhytida; and thus another genus is added to those common to Australia and New Guinea. Though well preserved both the specimens that furnish the following description are "dead shells": one is slightly darker and less globose than its fellow:—

RHYTIDA GLOBOSA, *n. s.*

Shell depressed-globose, thin, translucent, perforate, very glossy; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, the earlier flattened, the later rounded, rather rapidly increasing, the last a little expanded, not descending at the aperture; colour reddish-chestnut above, lighter beneath, first three whorls bleached nearly white; sculpture almost effaced on the body whorl, where nearly obsolete spiral impressed lines cross the faint irregular growth lines, the earlier whorls exhibit fine close oblique striæ cut by fine spiral grooves, a pitted (not striated) surface is offered by the first whorl and a half, which seem embryonic; suture impressed, slightly crenulated, bordered beneath by a narrow white band, which is in turn edged by a black line; aperture ovate, oblique, peristome simple above, slightly reflected below; interior bluish-white, probably iridescent when fresh, columella wall overlaid by a thin deposit; umbilicus narrow, partially hidden by the reflected peristome at its junction with the base; base a little inflated. Greater diam. 17 mm., lesser 14 mm., height 10 mm.

APPENDIX I.

Brief Report on the Papuan Highland Plants gathered during Sir William MacGregor's Expedition in May and June 1889, *offered by Baron Ferd. Von Mueller, K.C.M.G., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S.*

The memorable expedition, so valiantly and circumspectly carried out by his Honour Sir William MacGregor, the Governor of British New Guinea, for the ascent and exploration of the Owen Stanley Ranges has for the first time brought the flora of the temperate and the subalpine zone of that great island within the reach of elucidation. In a brief preliminary report, written in July last, attention has already been drawn to the extraordinary commigration, by which plants of Asiatic, of far southern and even of sub-antarctic types, had mingled together in the Papuan highlands. From the material thus brought together only a commencement can be made for studying the vegetation of the higher mountains from geographic points of view. In order to obtain a full insight into the Papuan alpine flora, it would require to reach the more central culminations in the island, hitherto inaccessible, where, on tiers still some few (or perhaps even several) thousand feet higher in those latitudes according to varying physical conditions, a real glacier-flora would be fully reached. To form extensive conclusions also in other respects on the nature of the Papuan alpine vegetation would at present be premature; but from what we now have already seen it promises to be eminently interesting. On this occasion it is merely intended to group the highland plants on geographic principles, but with a hope that it may yet be the writer's fortunate lot to carry on these comparisons more amply at some future time from fuller material the total Papuan sub-alpine and alpine flora in all likelihood comprising several hundred species of vascular plants. In these pages is only alluded to those plants which Sir William MacGregor gathered in altitudes between 8,000 and 13,000 feet; therefore in the high region above the zone involved in almost permanent clouds.

Of the about 80 plants specifically and distinctly recorded as emanating from the most elevated regions nearly half the number seems endemic, so far as hitherto can be judged, while as yet all the highlands of South-eastern Asia are unexplored, and while we also yet remain in uncertainty about the constancy of some of the characteristics on which the adopted new specific forms are established. Of these altitudinally restricted Papuan plants, two—namely, Ischnea elachoglossa and Decatoca Spenceri—represent new genera, the one allied to the exclusively Italian Nananthea, the other to the Australian and chiefly alpine Trochocarpa. Of the other endemic plants 19 are of Himalayan type—namely, Hypericum MacGregorii, Sagina donatioides, Rubus MacGregorii,

British New Guinea.

Anaphalis Mariæ, Myriactis bellidiformis, Vaccinium parvulifolium, V. amblyandrum, V. acutissimum, V. amplifolium, V. Helenæ, V. Macbainii, Gaultiera mundula, Rhododendron gracilentum, R. spondylophyllum, R. culminicolum, R. phæochiton, Gentiana Ettingshauseni, Trigonotis Haackei and T. oblita, though some of these show also a touch of the Sundaic vegetative element: and here may at once be alluded to, the extensive display of ericaceous (inclusive vacciniaceous) plants, which forms of vegetation are in Australia so scantily developed, and then mostly only on alpine heights. Nevertheless we now perceive also a marked preponderance of far Southern upland types, either Australian or New Zealandian or sub-antarctic, in the highland vegetation of New Guinea, so far as already revealed; this is demonstrated by the endemic occurrence of Ranunculus amerophyllus, Metrosideros Regelii, Rubus diclinis, Olearia Kernotii, Vittadinia Alinæ, V. macra, Veronica Lendenfeldi, Libocedrus Papuana, Schænus curvulus, and Festuca oreoboloides;—furthermore this repetition of the features of the southern flora so far north is rendered still more expressive and significant by the occurrence of numerous absolutely identical species—namely, Epilobium pedunculare, Galium Anstrale, Lagenophora Billardierii, Styphelia montana, Euphrasia Brownii, Myosotis Australis, Sisyrinchium pulchellum, Astelia alpina, Carpha alpina, Carex fissilis, Uncinia riparia, U. Hookeri, Agrostis montana, Danthonia penicillita, Festuca pusillia Lycopodium scariosum, Gleichenia dicarpa and Dawsonia, superba—all these being now shown for the first time to approach so near to the equator. Four Borneo-plants, hitherto only known from lofty altitudes of Kini-Balu, where they were discovered by Sir Hugh Low about 40 years ago, have now been traced to the Papuan highlands also—viz., Drimys piperita, Drapetes ericoides, Rhododendron Lowii, Phyllocladus hypophyllus—three of far southern type, Potentilla leucanota occurring also at Kini-Balu, but being Himalayan as well. Even a few of such British plants, as are not almost universally cosmopolitan, have now come before us from New Guinea indigenously; thus Taraxacum officinale, Scirpus cæspitosus, Aira cæspitosa, Festuca ovina, Lycopodium clavatam, L. Selago, L. Alpinum, Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense and Aspinium adculeatum. For the familiar northern genus Potentilla, thus a truly indigenous position in the southern hemisphere was gained for phytogeography, as well as for Myriactis and Trigonotis, while Astelia Uncinia and Dawsonia are now seen, to enter equatorial regions in the eastern hemisphere, Styphelia montana, as well as the Astelia and the Carpha mentioned, indicating particularly the commencement of a truly alpine vegetation. Of sub-antarctic features nearly or entirely are Gaultiera mundula, Uncinia Hookeri, Schœnus curvalus, and Festuca pusilla.

Sir William MacGregor found the arboreous vegetation on the Owen Stanley Ranges to cease at 11,500 feet (Despatch, 1st July 1889, p. 80); but this cessation was not due to a change of geologic formation. The limits of tree-vegetation may, however,

on some other Papuan culminations, so near to the equator under altered physical conditions, be somewhat higher, as would appear likely from comparison with zones of vegetation in the Himalayas at and near the verge of the tropics, where, for instance, among the plants here mentioned, Scirpus cæspitosus has an altitudinal range up to 17,000 feet. Cyathea MacGregorii seems to reach one of the most elevated positions attained by fern-trees anywhere, viz., 12,000—13,000 feet.

Regarding prospective utilitarian gain from the world of plants likely to emanate as a result of this expedition, we may look forward to the acquisition of the "Cypress" (Libocedrus Papuana), which constitutes the principal forests on the summit of Mount Douglas and Winter's Height, for arboreta even of countries of the cool temperate zone, and with this cypress-like tree could doubtless also be associated in parks far outside of the tropics that tall and likely peculiar "Bamboo" (*see* Sir W. MacGregor's Despatch, p. 76), with which the dry region above the nebular zone begins at about 8,500 feet. The several hardy and gaudy Rhododendrons could culturally be consociated by dissemination with the many Sikkim species now so frequent as garden favourites, and would afford additional means for horticultural hybridisation. The dwarf Raspberry-plant might give us an additional table-fruit. How far the Korthalsia palm would bear actual frigor remains to be ascertained. The species of Papuan highland grasses are rather gregarious than numerous.

Why so many plants from cold southern latitudes suddenly reappear on the Papuan and perhaps also on the Bornean highlands in evidently coeval forms of common origin—why the highest regions, and these almost only, should, as in New Zealand, reiterate plant-life otherwise typical of Tasmania, of continental Australia, of islands in the Southern Ocean and of Fuegia and Patagonia—whether this indicates a continuity of portions of the Papuan island, in previous epochs of the earth's history, with a once vastly extending southern land now mostly submerged; what clues can be obtained from the study of glacial drifts during former enormous telluric changes, such as geologic science endeavours to explain; what part could possibly have been taken by any migratory birds in effecting so wide a dispersion of some of these plants, even into so exceptional isolations,—all this and other momentous considerations involved in these questions must be reserved for future discussion and generalisation in a special essay, perhaps under the advantage of access to ampler working material and, let us hope, at not too distant a day.

APPENDIX TO APPENDIX I.

The plants from the Louisiades and from some of the lower tracts of country in New Guinea, obtained by Sir W. MacGregor, belong mostly to Sundaic forms, and were nearly all recorded

BRITISH NEW GUINEA

previously in my "Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants" (1875–1886); but one stately Pandanus is new, although closely allied to a Malayan species, and received the name of P. Macgregorii. Notable are also many ferns not previously recorded from any Papuan region. Specimens of some few plants, which are of utilitarian importance to the autochthones, were by special desire of Sir William MacGregor forwarded to the Economic Museum of the Royal Gardens of Kew, where the botanical names were defined as follows:—

"Koki"—*Heritiera litoralis*, Aiton.
"Batu"—*Pueraria phaseoloides*, Bentham.
"Kavera"—*Bruguiera*, perhaps *B. gymnorrhiza*, Lamarck.
"Ankava"—*Ipomoea Batatas*, Poiret.
"Sabo"—*Ficus* perhaps *F. hispida*, Linné.
"Igulara"—*Ficus*, sp.
"Kau"—*Dioscorea sativa*, Linné.

APPENDIX J.

REVENUE.

Statement of Revenue collected at British New Guinea from 4th September 1888 to 30th June 1889.

Head of Revenue.	Amount.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CUSTOMS REVENUE—		
Import duties	2,416 14 6	
Bond dues	1 7 0	
Sale of customs forms	1 8 8	
		2,419 10 2
GOLDFIELDS REVENUE—		
Miners' rights	149 0 0	
Business licenses	32 0 0	
Registration fees, &c.	6 17 0	
		187 17 0
FEES, FINES, AND LICENSES—		
Shipping Fees	1 18 0	
Fines	25 13 6	
Lighter licenses	2 0 0	
		29 11 6
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS—		
Sale of Government property	8 0 0	
Refund of passage money	20 13 0	
Cash in hands of Postmaster on 4th September 1888	14 0 2	
		42 13 2
Total	—	2,679 11 10

A. MUSGRAVE,
Treasurer, British New Guinea.

Port Moresby,
August 21, 1889.

EXPENDITURE.

Statement of Expenditure from 4th September 1888 to 30th of June 1889.

Appropriation as per British New Guinea Ordinance No. 5.	Particulars.	Expenditure.	Balances.	
			Unexpended.	In excess of Appropriation.
£ s. d.	COLONIAL EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	SALARIES—			
	CIVIL LIST ESTABLISHMENT—			
1,237 10 0	Administrator - - - -	1,237 10 0		
247 10 0	Private Secretary - - - -	223 7 4	24 2 8	
825 0 0	Judicial Officer - - - -	760 12 3	64 7 9	
412 10 0	Government Secretary - - -	412 10 0		
	TEMPORARY AND PROVISIONAL SERVICES—			
416 13 4	Government agents (2) - - -	421 8 4	—	4 15 0
208 6 8	Clerk and Interpreter - - -	206 5 0	2 1 8	
91 13 4	Assistant Interpreter - - -	47 4 6	44 8 10	
208 6 8	Government Printer - - -	206 5 0	2 1 8	
83 6 8	Keeper of signal station and Government House.	96 17 4	—	13 10 8
208 6 8	Overseer and Gaoler - - -	192 8 7	15 18 1	
	CONTINGENCIES—			
	VESSELS—			
500 0 0	Whaleboat and crew - - -	578 12 7	—	78 12 7
500 0 0	Cutter "Maino" and crew - -	256 7 1	243 12 11	
1,450 0 0	Schooner "Hygeia" and crew - -	1,805 11 8	—	355 11 8
	STORES—			
250 0 0	Printing plant - - - -	253 11 9	—	3 11 9
150 0 0	Medicines - - - - -	88 8 2	61 11 10	
100 0 0	Stationery - - - - -	121 18 10	—	21 18 10
200 0 0	Scientific books and instruments -	47 18 6	152 1 6	
	MISCELLANEOUS—			
586 13 4	House and travelling allowances to officers.	1,296 13 11	—	710 0 7
200 0 0	Presents to natives - - -	*468 0 0	—	268 0 0
200 0 0	Vaccination - - - - -	—	200 0 0	
150 0 0	New boats - - - - -	107 0 0	43 0 0	
400 0 0	Boat constables - - - -	—	400 0 0	
600 0 0	Mail service - - - - -	445 0 0	155 0 0	
500 0 0	Unforeseen Expenditure— £ s. d.			
	Allowance for entertaining 74 8 0			
	Buildings, material and work. 185 1 10			
	Furniture - - - 101 1 9			

* Includes over 400*l.* paid for services rendered.—W. MACG.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Appropriation as per British New Guinea Ordinance No. 5.	Particulars.	Expenditure.	Balances. Unexpended.	Balances. In excess of Appropriation.
£ s. d.	COLONIAL EXPENDITURE—*cont.*	£ s. d.	£ d.	£ s. d.
	CONTINGENCIES—*cont.*			
	MISCELLANEOUS—*cont.*			
9,725 16 8	Unforeseen Expenditure—*cont.*			
	£ s. d.			
	Gardens and plantations - 2 10 0			
	Government stables - - 52 5 1			
	Fireproof safes - - 52 13 0			
	Commissions, freights, &c. - 46 7 1			
	Gauging instruments - 10 1 6			
	Other miscellaneous charges 49 17 9			
		574 6 0	—	574 6 0
	SPECIAL SERVICES— £ s. d.			
	Resident Magistrate, Eastern District. 348 2 6	—	—	348 2 6
	Gold Warden, Sudest - - 238 14 3	—	—	238 14 3
	Special Interpreters - - 60 0 0	—	—	60 0 0
	Collector, Customs, Port Moresby. 38 15 0	—	—	38 15 0
	Tours of inspection and exploration, care of aboriginal prisoners, and other special services. 236 2 8	—	—	236 2 8
		921 14 5		
9,725 16 8	Total - - - -	10,769 11 3	1,408 6 11	2,452 1 6
	IMPERIAL EXPENDITURE.			
	GOVERNMENT STEAMER "MERRIE ENGLAND"—			
	Wages, paying off crew on arrival -	307 14 1		
	Coals, wages, and expenses of maintenance since arrival.	1,408 13 0		
	Total - - - -	1,716 7 1		
	Total Expenditure - -	12,485 18 4		

A. MUSGRAVE,
Treasurer, British New Guinea.

Port Moresby,
August 21, 1889.

CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of British New Guinea for the period between the 4th September 1888 and the 30th June 1889 inclusive, and find as follows :—

Revenue.

The total revenue paid over by the local receivers to the Treasurer of British New Guinea during the above period (which

is derived principally from Customs and Goldfields receipts), amounted to 2,679*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* This sum has been duly brought to account and paid over to the Queensland Treasury. The accounts of the several local receivers have not been submitted to me for audit, but I understand have, to a certain extent, been examined by officers of the New Guinea Government.

Expenditure.

The expenditure chargeable to Colonial appropriations for the ten months amounted to 10,769*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* The payments have all been correctly computed, and are supported by duly certified and acquitted vouchers. In addition to the above expenditure, the sum of 1,716*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* has been paid on account of the Imperial Government for maintenance and other charges in connexion with the steamer "Merrie England." Drafts to cover this advance have been drawn on the Imperial Treasury.

The Colonial expenditure (10,769*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*), although in excess of the British New Guinea Appropriation Ordinance, does not exceed the amount formally approved by the Governor of Queensland, and is within the proportionate sum guaranteed for the period by the British New Guinea (Queensland) Act, viz., 12,083*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

Contributions in Aid.

The following contributions have been received from the guaranteeing Colonies:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From Victoria to the 31st May 1889 - - - -	3,611	2	2
From Queensland to the 30th June 1889 - - - -	4,027	15	6
	7,638	17	8

No contributions have been received from New South Wales, and the following sums are due to the 30th June last, viz.:—

Victoria - - - -	416	13	4
New South Wales - - -	4,027	15	6
	4,444	8	10

Collections available for Distribution.

The amounts available for distribution between the guaranteeing Colonies, in terms of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Second

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Schedule of the British New Guinea (Queensland) Act are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Local revenue collected - -	2,679	11	10
Contribution by Western Australia	161	16	9
	2,841	8	7

In addition to this sum there is a balance unexpended by the late Special Commissioner, and some small refunds since recovered, amounting in all to 1,466*l* 16*s*. 10*d*., to be dealt with as may be decided upon by the guaranteeing Colonies.

W. L. G. DREW,
Auditor General.

Department of Audit, Queensland,
Brisbane, 18th September 1889.

No. 2.

LORD KNUTSFORD to Sir H. W. NORMAN (Queensland).

Downing Street, May 2, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 20th of February,* forwarding the Report of Sir W. MacGregor on the administration of the Possession of British New Guinea for the 10 months from the 4th of September 1888 to the 30th June 1889.

I have perused this report with much interest, and I request that you will convey to Sir W. MacGregor an expression of my great satisfaction at the results of the first 10 months of the government of British New Guinea, and my sense of the excellent services which he has rendered in inaugurating the administration of the Possession, and especially of the firmness and tact which he has displayed in dealing with the natives.

It has given me great pleasure to note the warm interest and appreciation entertained by your Ministers of the work performed by Sir W. MacGregor, and the valuable assistance and support rendered to that officer by yourself and the other gentlemen mentioned in your Despatch and in the Administrator's report.

I will only add that Her Majesty's Government feel themselves indebted to you personally in no ordinary degree for the unceasing care and tact with which you have filled a position presenting unprecedented difficulties in its relations with the Administrator on the one hand and the responsible Ministers on the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

Sir H. Norman.

---

* No. 1.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

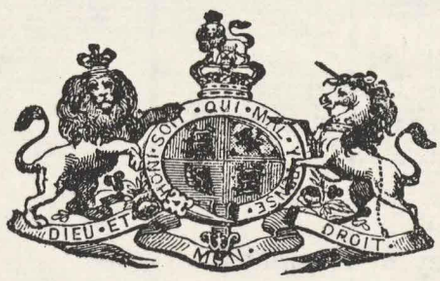
No. 101.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1886.

(In continuation of No. 12 in [C.—4904], September 1886.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.-31.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	
52	Turk's Islands	1888
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887-8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	,,
100	Straits Settlements	,,

No. 101.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

[In continuation of No. 12 in [C.—4904], September 1886.]

Administrator NEALE PORTER to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Antigua,
August 10, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis, for the year 1886, with the President's report thereon.

I regret the delay which has occurred in the transmission of this Blue Book, caused by President Eldridge's absence on sick leave in the early part of this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

President's Office, August 4, 1887.

SIR,

IN submitting the Blue Book for 1886 it will be necessary to refer to the Report of 1885 by way of comparison as to a more or less healthy state of the finances of the Presidency than existed in that year.

The revenue and expenditure were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
January 1st, 1885, balance in hand -	5,434	12	8
Revenue received, ordinary - -	35,143	4	0
Total -	40,577	16	8

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure, ordinary - -	38,397	4	3
Arrears of 1884 paid, less arrears received - - -	295	13	3
Basseterre building loan paid, less receipts on account of loan -	226	0	4
Balance in credit - -	1,658	18	10
Total -	40,577	16	8

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

During 1885 advances were made on account of the Basseterre protection loan to the extent of 1,776*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and an amount of 70*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* was due to the inter-colonial money order account; these sums would cause on the year's transactions an excess of expenditure over assets of 187*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

The deficit on ordinary transactions for the year was 3,775*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

The following extraordinary payments were made during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Proportion expenses of Royal Commission	277	12	5
Colonial and Indian Exhibition	200	0	0
Grant to widow of the late Colonial Secretary	48	11	6
Back pension, Mrs. McArthur	85	7	0
To pay for land at Weir Waterworks	58	10	0
Contribution towards Mr. Lubbock's expenses	10	18	2
Total	680	19	1

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The ordinary revenue in 1886 was	35,109	12	11½
The excess of expenditure was	3,745	8	7½
Total	38,855	1	7

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The ordinary expenditure was	37,037	18	1
Arrears of 1885 paid, less arrears received	1,544	13	3
Basseterre building loan paid, less payments on loan received	272	10	3
Total	38,855	1	7

In addition to the above receipts and payments the following special funds were received and disbursed:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks Loan	8,000	0	0			
Less paid for construction of works	3,620	16	9			
				4,379	3	3
Carried forward				4,379	3	3

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward -	-		-	4,379	3	3
Inter-Colonial money orders - -	873	15	0			
Inter-Colonial money orders paid - -	711	9	8½			
				162	5	3½
Basseterre protection loan amount refunded, general revenue -	-		-	2,000	0	0
Total -			-	6,541	8	6½

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Excess of expenditure -	3,745	8	7½			
Advanced Basseterre protection works -	83	1	11			
Balance on hand 31st December - -	2,712	18	0			
				6,541	8	6½

The special votes during the year were: Grant for clearing washes caused by excessive rainfall, 350*l.*; preparing building for Yaws Hospital in Nevis, 130*l.*; expenses quarantine, S.S. "Muriel," 413*l.*; and building market house in Nevis, 424*l.*; loss on postal union 1884–1885, 438*l.*

By these figures it appears the ordinary annual revenue and expenditure of 1885 and 1886 show a deficit respectively of 3,775*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* and 3,745*l.* 8*s.* 7¼*d.*, the amount of revenue and expenditure for both years being nearly the same.

The import duties fell off in comparison with the receipts of 1883 and 1884, 8,477*l.*, although they were increased by large importations of rum from Demerara, which realised 600*l.* in excess of similar receipts in these years. Increased steam transport, steamers paying no port or tonnage dues, together with the abolition of the export tonnage, caused a loss of 1,560*l.*

The amended Tonnage and Package Ordinance, passed in 1886, had not had time to recoup this loss to any extent.

The excise duty failed, in consequence of the importation of rum from Demerara, to give the estimated receipt. The sale of rum by the puncheon at a fixed quantity, irrespective of strength, has enabled importers of high strength spirit to obtain an advantage of some 16*s.* per puncheon against home-made rum of lower degree.

Legislation is required to equalise the import and excise duties.

An amended Treasury and Import Ordinance passed during the year altering the duty on kerosine oil will probably yield 400*l.* increase of revenue.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The ordinary expenditure calls for little comment; by reference to the detailed comparative sources little variation will be observed.

The public buildings, save the Treasury, are in good order.

Failing revenue, many extraordinary grants, and the increased expenditure over revenue derived from Nevis and Anguilla, some 800*l.* annually, are the causes of the financial difficulties of the past two years.

In June 1886 the question of increased taxation was discussed, but the lateness of the year, the difficulty of making taxation immediately available, and the fact that a large sum had been advanced from general revenue for the Basseterre protection works, induced an unanimous opinion that a portion of the loan for these works should be raised and taxation, if absolutely necessary, deferred.

In order further to examine the financial position of the Presidency I will now proceed to consider its position since the union with Nevis and Anguilla.

I place in an appendix comparative tables of revenue and expenditure with a *résumé* of both.

From these returns, the excess of expenditure over revenue for the four years of union has been 2,466*l.* 18*s.* 11¾*d.* inclusive of all special payments and grants.

In examining the revenue, the falling off in the import duties is very striking and can be attributed to over trading in 1883 and 1884, and the reduced value of our exports; the purchasing power of the population being reduced to absolute necessaries of life.

The following facts will also account for the smaller revenue than formerly, and much may be attributed to the union of the Islands, and the effort to equalise their duties.

In 1883 the horse and carriage tax in Nevis was abolished at the annual loss of 280*l.* The admission of articles, the growth produce and manufacture of the Islands of the Leeward Islands Government led to a loss of 50*l.*

The abolition of the vestry in Anguilla and their power of taxation, and the closer union to St. Kitts and Nevis led to the loss of export taxes, clearance fees, house and land taxes and liquor licenses, causing an annual loss of 324*l.*

The repeal of the export tonnage caused a loss of 800*l.*

The salt royalty on the Anguilla ponds of 187*l.* 10*s.* per annum has, in consequence of strong representations to the Secretary of State, been suspended until the shipment of salt reaches the minimum quantity specified in the lease. No funds will be eceived from this source for some time.

The retirement of the Rev. W. Pemberton in 1883, caused an increase of 221*l.* 15*s.* to the pension list and a decrease of export

duty on the produce of the parishes of St. John and St. Paul, and the notified retirement of the Rev. C. C. Culpeper will again cause a heavy loss to the revenue, together with his retiring pension.

These losses have been partially met by the imposition of the stamp tax in St. Kitts, and the increased duty on kerosine oil in the Presidency, yielding about 900*l.*

I venture to think the period has arrived when the taxation of the Presidency requires adjustment, and the duties on food removed to a large extent, and property, income, insurance companies, trade, and carriages with springs, be made to pay a quota of taxation in order to meet the expenses of police and fire brigade, &c. The ecclesiastical export tax bears very heavily on the parishes that are still not disendowed. The gradual disendowment of the Anglican Church has relieved six parishes of the export tax on produce, while three—St. Peter, Trinity, and St. Thomas—remain fettered. The ecclesiastical stipends of these parishes amount to 539*l.* 10*s.* and the export duty on the sugar at 4*s.* 2*d.* per hogshead would be 1,500*l.*

The other parishes, save St. Ann, although free from tax, have their former pastors pensioned to the extent of 844*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, which sum is paid from the general revenue, and is contributed to by residents in St. Peter, Trinity, and St. Thomas, who are already specially taxed for their own ecclesiastical expenses.

Assets and Liabilities of the Presidency, 31st December 1886.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand	678	11	2½	Unrepresented estates	148	9	5½
Colonial bank deposit	300	0	0	Casual receiver	10	13	8½
Crown Agents	1,935	0	7	Escheated estates	51	15	2
Anguilla chest	8	0	10	Land claimants	49	5	1
Immigration debentures	11,694	7	1	Provost Marshal's deposit account	115	14	9
Investment by Crown Agents of Basseterre Loan	725	0	0	Inter-Colonial money orders	91	19	10½
Excess of liabilities	12,176	9	2	Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Water Company	4,379	3	3
				Basseterre Improvement Loan	1,100	0	0
				„ Protection „	2,000	0	0
				Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Water Loan	8,000	0	0
				Immigration, St. Kitts	10,354	0	10
				„ Nevis	684	9	1½
				Wharfage account	531	17	7½
Total	27,517	8	10½	Total	27,517	8	10½

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Comparative Tables.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1883 - - - -	205,788	252,267
1884 - - - -	213,583	205,497
1885 - - - -	152,874	199,075
1886 - - - -	170,735	159,971

Places from and Value of Imports.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	100,561	102,048	64,561	73,587
British Colonies - -	20,868	20,702	18,119	18,593
Foreign Countries -	84,359	90,833	70,194	78,554

Places to and Value of Exports.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	156,417	97,989	53,662	17,198
British Colonies - -	8,958	9,724	10,302	12,957
Foreign Countries -	86,892	97,784	135,111	129,816

Produce Shipped.

	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Value.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Puncheons.	£
1883 - - -	14,794	5,520	378	238,474
1884 - - -	19,380	3,180	1,113	189,280
1885 - - -	16,160	3,787	1,536	183,520
1886 - - -	14,389	4,135	364	145,743

The marked and steady depreciation in the value of sugar readily accounts for fiscal difficulties.

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances passed the Legislative Council during the year, comprising those for the annual appropriation; the abolition of export tonnage on ships, and the imposition of a package duty on steam as well as sailing vessels; an increased duty on kerosine oil; an amendment of the Poundage Act of Nevis; the raising of a loan for the construction of waterworks for Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay; an Ordinance regulating trade, &c; the remission of the land tax in Nevis, and immigration export tax in St. Kitts for the year; amended Board of Health and Road Ordinances; and an Ordinance with reference to the discipline on board Her Majesty's ships of war.

General.

No events or changes of office of importance have occurred during the year. The sanitary condition of the Presidency, but for the outbreak and rapid spread of the swamp fever, would have been satisfactory. The number of sufferers was large, the percentage of mortality small. The disease readily yielded to treatment, and the wards of the Cunningham Hospital were crowded with inmates. Change, care and skill relieved large and grateful numbers, and a daily meal after their discharge for a limited period soon re-established good health.

The births for the year were 2,010 and the deaths 1,469, viz.:—

	Births.	Deaths.
St. Kitts - - - -	1,272	1,004
Nevis - - - -	599	397
Anguilla - - - -	139	68
Total - - -	2,010	1,469

In *résumé*, difficulties have enforced rigid economy and reduced wages with our agriculturists, while good harvests both in the Presidency and the United States have provided regular, though restricted, labour and cheap food for our labourers, materially alleviating their condition during the past few years.

The repeal of the duties on imported food and the distribution of the taxation on other hitherto untaxed sources of revenue, such as houses, incomes, trades, wheels, companies, &c., would not only be a boon to our people but a just reward for their patient

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

bearing of the past and existing difficulties. Fluctuations in the labour market are but slight with us, and are in no way affected by a rise in the price of sugar, while, on the other hand, depreciation in the value of our products meets with a prompt reduction in wages—a reduction which will be difficult to alter whenever remedial measures are adopted by the Government to relieve the planter of his present difficulties.

The export trade with the United States is largely increasing, while that with the mother country is correspondingly decreasing. Rapid transit and quick returns are important factors against long voyages, loss of weight, and accruing interest accounts, and the present crisis will be found a blessing in disguise in opening new markets for our produce, which from our geographical position with America, and our entire reliance on her for our food supplies would appear to be the legitimate channel of our commerce. Bounty-fed sugar excludes the West Indies from the English markets. Our imports from England have fallen off 25 per cent. in four years, and as West India capital accumulates in America so will mercantile men look round for an exchange of commodities rather than suffer a continual loss on remittances for their produce; thus will the imports from America rapidly increase, and it will be found, when justice has been done to these loyal and valuable dependencies of the Crown, difficult to divert the stream of trade from its new found course.

The abolition of food and export duties will do much to foster our commerce with the United States, and I trust ere long that the latter obnoxious tax, clogging as it does every onward step by taxes on each additional pound of sugar, gallon of molasses, and puncheon of rum, may be abandoned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

The Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary,
Antigua.

Statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the Four Years during the Union of St. Christopher, Nevis, and Anguilla, from 1*st January* 1883 *to* 31*st December* 1886.

Revenue.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import duty - - -	22,203 18 3¼	22,540 15 4¼	17,443 3 2	18,822 16 0
Export duty - - -	3,529 4 2½	3,807 18 2½	3,254 1 4½	3,467 13 7
Cavalry tax - - -	2,347 15 3	3,265 15 1	2,754 8 1½	2,191 6 8
Export tonnage - -	1,267 6 11½	1,074 9 8½	765 15 10	15 2 10½
Tonnage and package -	1,556 9 3½	1,537 2 1	1,113 18 0½	1,768 6 11
Excise - - - -	2,188 17 0	2,236 14 10	2,265 18 0	1,527 7 6

——	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Licenses, Liquor - -	2,172 10 0	2,397 14 3	2,322 0 0	2,296 5 0
„ Other - -	163 7 6	174 18 3	166 5 9	136 18 10
Revenue, stamps - -	606 6 7	737 9 10	565 1 4	566 6 7
Judicial fees, stamps - -	540 2 0	441 2 4	388 11 10	505 19 11
Petty debt court - -	203 7 2½	218 19 9	237 0 4	252 13 4
Cemetery fees - - -	36 8 0	43 10 0	38 1 0	37 1 0
Miscellaneous - - -	343 3 0	329 9 7½	275 4 6	137 14 4½
Post office - - -	550 19 9½	654 19 2	902 5 1½	755 9 9
Fines, penalties, &c. - -	1,148 12 11½	1,147 14 2½	879 9 9	929 7 6½
Wharfage dues - -	1,057 0 8½	1,349 5 10	1,130 8 7½	1,098 4 2½
Waterworks receipts - -	507 16 10½	446 8 11½	495 18 8	466 5 10
Salt royalty - - -	187 10 0	187 10 0	—	—
Rents - - - - -	165 13 0	195 19 8½	145 12 6½	134 12 4½
House and land tax, Anguilla	126 1 9	—	—	—
Reimbursement, Basseterre building loan.	681 9 7	400 5 4	299 19 6	346 11 4
Inter-Colonial money orders	—	—	—	873 15 0
Refund, Basseterre protection.	—	—	—	2,000 0 0
Sandy Point Water Loan -	—	—	—	—
Total - -	41,583 19 11¼	43,188 2 5¼	35,443 3 6	46,329 19 3½

Expenditure.

——	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - -	15,025 12 1	15,738 17 9	15,371 2 8	15,455 17 3
Pensions - - -	1,768 3 10	1,920 9 9	1,791 7 9	1,745 18 4
Administration of justice -	114 15 3½	78 14 3	147 15 5	61 9 6
Ecclesiastical - - -	62 12 6	57 0 0	55 2 6	57 0 0
Charitable allowances -	1,037 17 0	1,013 4 8	1,116 4 3	1,156 0 9
Education - - -	100 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	125 0 0
Hospitals - - -	2,513 19 1	2,667 16 8	2,907 18 4	2,827 16 0
Police and gaol - -	1,278 4 7	1,106 1 2	1,337 9 1	1,190 10 0
Rents - - - - -	230 18 8	233 19 1	265 18 8	264 7 0
Conveyance of mails -	840 4 0	522 0 7	440 5 6	1,072 16 10
Works and buildings -	835 10 2	1,696 15 5	1,817 14 3	719 5 11
Roads, streets, &c. - -	3,232 4 11	3,338 9 6	2,884 0 9	3,157 19 10
Miscellaneous - - -	941 2 8	709 7 0	1,277 10 4	664 5 11
Interest - - -	153 0 0	139 0 0	99 0 0	87 11 3
Sanitary and registration -	850 5 7	1,085 8 10	862 12 0	1,100 14 2
Militia - - - -	2,270 6 8	2,265 3 11	2,259 8 0	2,278 13 2
Quarantine - - -	126 13 4	136 19 2	127 10 0	517 18 6

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraph	800 0 0	800 0 0	800 0 0	800 0 0
Lights and signals	33 17 4	45 14 8	50 16 1	47 13 0
Drawback	32 18 2	28 17 2	90 9 4	19 11 5
Federal	4,304 1 2½	3,449 10 11	3,280 17 8	3,083 3 5
Piers	1,003 19 1	1,368 2 2	1,214 1 8	516 18 10
Anguilla	212 19 6¼	—	—	—
Ice subsidy	—	—	—	87 7 0
Special expenditure Basseterre building loan	345 12 8	538 4 1	525 19 10	619 1 7
Advance protection works	796 5 0	2,075 2 5	1,776 7 9	83 1 11
Basseterre improvement	25 11 2	—	—	—
Inter-Colonial money orders	—	—	70 5 5	711 9 8½
Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Commissioners	—	—	—	3,620 16 9
Arrears	643 7 1½	944 7 11	660 19 4	1,558 16 4
	39,580 1 7¾	42,159 7 1	41,430 16 7	43,631 4 4½

Résumé from 1883 *to* 1886 *inclusive.*

Revenue.		Expenditure.		
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Cash balance, 1st January 1883	975 9 10¾	1883 to 1886		156,410 3 4¼
Loan transferred	761 6 5	Improvement of Basseterre		25 11 2
Receipts 1883 to 1886	153,943 4 5		£ s. d.	
Basseterre loan recovered	1,728 5 9	Balance on hand	2,712 18 0	
Inter-Colonial money orders	91 19 10½	Amount due by Basseterre Protection Works	2,730 7 1	
Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Water Commissioners	4,379 3 3			5,443 15 1
Total	161,879 9 7¼			161,879 9 7¼

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 96.

S T. L U C I A.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 67.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1890.

[C.—5897.-26.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
47	New Zealand	1887
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,

No. 96.

ST. LUCIA.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 67.]

Sir W. Hely Hutchinson to Lord Knutsford.

My Lord, Grenada, April 5, 1890.

I have the honour to forward Mr. Llewelyn's Report on the St. Lucia Blue Book for the year 1889.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Walter Hely Hutchinson.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book for the Year 1889.

Taxation.

1. The *ad valorem* import duties were increased on certain articles by an Ordinance passed at the end of 1888 from 10 to 15 per cent. This increased duty has been taken off since the end of the year.

2. The list of exemptions under the import tariff was revised in August and more clearly defined, especially with reference to articles used exclusively for the manufacture of sugar. Coals and coal baskets were also more clearly specified as being exempt from import duty.

3. The excise duty on rum was raised from the beginning of the year from 2*s.* 10*d.* per proof gallon (Winchester measure) to 3*s.* 4*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue of the Colony amounted to 47,509*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* and the expenditure to 1,424*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* less. This surplus, added to previous balances, left 4,898*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* as the balance carried forward at the end of the year on account of general revenue.

5. There were many unforeseen and extraordinary items of expenditure, such as 1,405*l.* paid for the repatriation of St. Lucians who had emigrated to Colon and were left destitute there when work was stopped on the Panama Canal; and it is satisfactory to be able to record that, notwithstanding the unforeseen expenditure,

ST. LUCIA.

amounting in the aggregate to 8,021*l.*, the accounts of the year showed at the end of it an excess of revenue over expenditure.

6. Import and excise duties contributed largely to the excess in revenue, and this is to be attributed to the number of labourers employed on military works now being carried out in the Colony and also to the increasing business of coaling steamers.

Debt.

7. The total debt of the Colony on the 31st December was as follows :—

	£
Central sugar factory loans - -	33,100
Immigration - „ - -	14,100
Castries harbour „ - -	70,000
Public works - „ - -	25,400
	142,600

8. Some of the above debt has been borrowed at 6 per cent., a little at 5 per cent., but all the Harbour Works Loan and Public Works Loan at 4½ per cent.

9. The loans are repayable at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum commencing five years after the first issue of debentures.

10. At present sinking fund has only to be provided for the Central Sugar Factory and Immigration loans, both of which have been thus reduced, the former by 6,900*l.* and the latter by 900*l.*

11. The interest and sinking fund on these loans will, within the next year or two, amount to a charge on the Colony of between 9,000*l.* and 10,000*l.* per annum.

Military Expenditure.

12. The duty allowed and paid by the Colony to the officers and men of the garrison, in commutation for import duty, amounted to 252*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* against 32*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* in the previous year, which shows how the garrison is gradually increasing.

13. It is estimated that when the full garrison is here the Colony will have to pay for this duty allowance between 4,000*l.* and 5,000*l.* per annum.

14. The military works have been carried on with increased activity, and a large amount of money must have been circulated by the War Department in the payment of wages to mechanics and labourers.

Public Works.

15. No new work of any importance was undertaken as no provision was made on the estimates for any.

16. A small building containing four punishment cells was added to the gaol at a cost of 390*l.*

17. During the year Her Majesty's Government resumed possession of all the buildings occupied 20 years ago by the War Department as barracks, &c., and the Colony has had to find accommodation elsewhere, and make the best temporary arrangements possible for the several institutions located in military buildings. This has caused considerable inconvenience and expense to the Colony, which is now left without a Government House.

Harbour Works.

18. Dredging operations were continued throughout the year, and the works estimated for by Sir John Coode were nearly finished. The central shoal is now being removed, and when that is done dredging in the harbour will be completed, unless a further deepening is decided on or additional improvements started.

19. There is no doubt that the harbour of Castries is an excellent one and affords ample room for an ordinary fleet and all the merchant steamers ever likely to require accommodation at the same time.

20. There are no dangerous shoals outside to interfere with ingress or egress at any hour of the day or night.

21. A quay, 650 feet long has a depth of 27 feet at low water, and further berth accommodation on the Western Wharf is under consideration.

Roads.

22. The main road round the southern end and across the island from Dennery to Castries and from Castries to Gros Islet covers a distance of nearly 100 miles, and this road, including bridges, with about 90 miles of branch roads, has been kept in repair for 3,025*l.*

23. The Council voted early in the year the sum of 5,000*l.* from the Public Works Loan for making up thoroughly the existing roads in the first district.

24. Of this sum 1,570*l.* has been spent up to the 31st December, principally on the road between Castries and Gros Islet.

25. The year 1889 was unusually wet and increased the difficulties and expenses in keeping the roads in order; but, I believe, they are all very much improved.

26. The roads of the island were never traced for carriage roads, with the exception of a few short stretches here and there and the road to Gros Islet; it would be difficult at present to drive anywhere for any distance.

27. The road from Castries to the Morne can be driven at a walking pace, but it is easier and safer to ride it. A new trace is under consideration, and by lengthening the distance a good road on an easy grade can be made. At present the rise of 800 feet is covered by a mile and a quarter road, in some places rising one in five.

ST. LUCIA.

Legislation.

28. On the 25th of July the revised and consolidated edition of the Ordinances prepared by Mr. Carrington, C.M.G., late Chief Justice of the Island, was proclaimed and came into operation.

29. Since that date the following are the most important of the 20 Ordinances passed.

30. An Ordinance to regulate the purchase of cocoa, which is almost an exact transcript of a similar Ordinance in force in Grenada.

31. An Ordinance empowering the Court to order any male convicted of causing harm to any person by using a razor, knife, cutlass, dagger or similar instrument, to be flogged in addition to any other punishment provided by law, and any female convicted of a like offence to be kept in solitary confinement.

32. An Ordinance for the prevention of the stealing of cattle provides for branding of cattle and for the recording of brands, also for the licensing of butchers and registering places in which animals can be slaughtered.

33. Two Ordinances have been passed which are similar to Ordinances in Grenada, and which deal with the subject of education on the principle of grants in aid according to results.

34. The Public Works and Roads Ordinance, which provides for the appointment of road boards in each of the three districts into which the island is divided.

35. An Ordinance to grant patent rights for 14 years to Messrs. Olsen and Gabriel for an invention of a new and useful improvement in compounds for the manufacture of piping, bowls, tiles, &c., the principal ingredients being sulphur and clay found at the sulphur springs at Soufrière.

Councils.

36. The retirement from the administration of the government of the island of Mr. Edward Laborde, C.M.G., caused the only permanent change in the Councils.

Civil Establishment.

37. Mr. Edward Laborde, C.M.G., retired from the public service early in the year, and Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G., was appointed Administrator.

38. Capt. W. P. Roche resigned his office as chief of police, and was succeeded by Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., who in December was appointed assistant harbour master at Hong Kong, and Commander R. Jukes Hughes, R.N., succeeded him as chief of police.

39. Mr. Arthur Child, a stipendiary magistrate in Trinidad, has been acting as Chief Justice since May.

40. Sir Walter Sendall, K.C.M.G., relinquished the government of the Windward Islands in November, and was succeeded by the Hon. Sir Walter Hely Hutchinson, K.C.M.G.

Population.

41. Early in the year, owing to the cessation of work on the Panama Canal, about 1,000 natives of St. Lucia returned here, and there has been considerable immigration from the neighbouring islands.

42. I believe the population of the island is now at least 45,000, but the registrar of civil status makes it 43,124.

43. During the year 132 coolies returned to India on the expiration of their term of service.

44. There were 1,673 births and 1,053 deaths, representing a per-centage of 3·70 for births and 2·24 for deaths, the latter will compare favourably with the per-centage in other Colonies claiming a reputation for salubrity.

45. I append a table showing the causes of death, and regret to observe that 15 persons apparently succumbed to bites from serpents.

Table showing Causes of Deaths.

Causes of Deaths.	Under 1 Year.		From 1 to 15 Years.		Adults.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Zymotic diseases	30	27	41	28	40	43	209
Sporadic—							
Of uncertain or variable seat	13	22	45	32	40	48	200
Of the nervous system	11	14	9	6	9	9	58
Of the organs of circulation	1	—	—	1	9	4	15
Of the organs of respiration	9	2	8	10	41	56	126
Of the organs of digestion	19	10	5	6	13	9	62
Of the urinary organs	—	—	—	2	4	—	6
Rheumatism and other diseases of the joints, bones, and ligaments	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Elephantiasis, yaws, and other diseases of the integumentary system	—	1	—	—	3	—	4
Childbirth and diseases of the womb, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Premature birth and debility	51	48	3	—	1	—	103
Age	—	—	—	—	30	45	75
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths by violence and accidents	5	1	6	2	10	5	29
Bitten by serpents	—	—	3	1	10	1	15
Still-births	50	51	—	—	—	—	101
Unknown and unassigned	7	4	12	1	4	6	34
	196	180	132	92	217	236	
	376		224		453		1,053

ST. LUCIA.

Pensions.

46. No change of any sort occurred during the year.

Savings Bank.

47. The number of depositors in the Savings Bank increased during the year from 453 to 640, but the total amount of deposits was reduced by about 900*l.*

48. This was owing to the withdrawals made in August of 1,200*l.* by the coolies who returned to India in the "Rhone."

49. The total amount of deposits on the 31st December was 8,279*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, invested as follows:—

	£
New South Wales Inscribed Stock -	2,000
Canadian Inscribed Stock - -	2,000
Barbados Government Debentures -	1,000
In Colonial Bank on deposit at interest -	2,500
Total - - -	7,500

Education.

50. There were 27 primary schools which received assistance from public funds. The subjoined table gives the number of children on the rolls, the average daily attendance, and the amount of fees received at these schools. There are other schools in which elementary instruction is given, but no returns are obtained from them.

—	No. of Schools.	On Rolls. (at 30th June).			Average daily Attendance.	Fees.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.		£	*s.*	*d.*
Mico - -	11	1,084	405	1,489	748	79	18	11
Roman Catholic -	13	662	1,117	1,779	1,047	87	7	5
Indian Mission -	3	—	—	148*	70	—		
Total - -	27	—	—	3,416	1,865	167	6	4

The number present at the annual examination in August was 2,360, of which number 1,370 were examined.

* Returns incomplete; figures computed.

51. A comparison of the returns of the past five years shows the number of schools and scholars in attendance to have been as under:—

	No. of Schools.	No. on Rolls.	Average daily Attendance.	Average on Roll each School.	Average Attendance each School.
1884 - - -	18	2,897	1,392	161	77
1885 - - -	21	2,891	1,534	138	73
1886 - - -	19	2,859	1,556	151	82
1887 - - -	27	3,255	1,900	121	70
1888 - - -	26	3,351	1,848	129	71
Total - -	111	15,253	8,230	700	373
Average for five years -	22	3,050	1,646	140	74

52. The proportion of children attending school to the whole population, as shown by the returns obtained, was 7·9 per cent., and was during the previous five years in the following proportion:—

1884 - - - - -	7·1
1885 - - - - -	6·9
1886 - - - - -	6·8
1887 - - - - -	7·7
1888 - - - - -	7·9

The actual proportion is higher, but no returns are furnished for private schools, and the exact figure cannot be arrived at.

53. The amount contributed from public funds for the maintenance of the primary schools during the year under review was 1,427*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, showing an average of 15*s.* 3¾*d.* contributed towards the education of each child attending the assisted schools, calculated on the average daily attendance. These figures show that 3 per cent. of the Colony's revenue was devoted to education, equivalent to a charge of 8*d. per caput* of the whole population. The foregoing figures point to a very small outlay on the part of the Government for educational purposes, but it is computed that quite an equal amount was contributed voluntarily from private sources. There are no schools maintained exclusively from public funds.

54. During the year two Ordinances were passed dealing with education. The "Elementary Instruction Ordinance" imposes on parents or guardians the duty of causing their children to receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and provides

ST. LUCIA.

the machinery for enforcing the performance of this moral obligation. The "Education Ordinance" makes provision for the establishment and maintenance of schools, both Government and assisted, and for their management and control. It is contemplated that many more schools will be opened and a much larger amount spent on education than hitherto, and with a well-considered and carefully-regulated system a much higher standard will be reached and more satisfactory results obtained.

55. A great drawback to educational progress is the patois, a corruption of the French language, which is so largely used by persons of all classes. Every effort will be made under the new system to eradicate its use from the schoolroom and playground.

Crown Lands.

56. Owing to the unavoidable delay in passing the new Crown Lands Ordinance, no grants have been issued by the Crown Lands Office, but every preparation has been made for dealing with the back work rapidly as soon as the Ordinance becomes law.

57. There were 177 applications for Crown lands received during 1889, representing 3,280 acres, and the total number of applications in hand on the 31st December was 308, representing 6,976 acres. Some of these applications date back as far as 1883.

58. At present no means exist of arriving at the amount of squatting in the Colony, but the above figures will show that it has reached some magnitude, as hitherto the purchase of Crown lands has not been facilitated, and the afore-mentioned applications may be regarded in most instances as voluntary.

Imports.

59. The total value of the imports was 164,606*l.*, including coal valued at 25,471*l.*, but exclusive of military stores and supplies for the Government of the Colony, which were declared to be worth 7,442*l.*

60. In 1888 the value of the imports was given at 140,857*l.*, so there was apparently a large increase in trade during the past year, which will, I think, continue as long as labourers are being employed on public works, as at present.

61. During the year 45,831 tons of coal were imported and 38,348 tons were shipped in bunkers.

62. Some of the coal imported is consumed in the sugar factories.

63. The value of the exports and imports, omitting the item of coals, was about equal, namely, 141,000*l.* on each side.

64. I observe that the import duties yielded 23,539*l.*, a larger sum than has ever been collected before, and 5,000*l.* above the average of the four years 1884–8. A little of this may be attributed to the increase in the *ad valorem* duties in force during the year, but since abolished.

Exports.

65. The total value of the exports was 142,776*l.*, being 20,547*l.* more than in 1888. This does not include the value of the coal shipped in bunkers, estimated at 19,147*l.*

66. The higher value of sugar during some months of the year is the principal cause of the increase in the value of the exports.

67. The only new article of export is apparently pimento sticks, of which 40,352 were shipped during the year.

68. The cultivation of cocoa seems to be increasing, judging from the quantity shipped, and indeed all articles show a slightly upward tendency in quantities, which is encouraging.

Shipping.

69. The following table gives a comparison of the number of sailing vessels and steamers that have entered and cleared during each of the last three years :—

Sailing Vessels.

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1887 - - - -	241	12,900	237	12,814
1888 - - - -	219	16,088	220	16,318
1889 - - - -	246	17,621	246	15,955
Total - - -	706	46,609	703	45,187

Steamers.

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1887 - - - -	233	236,320	233	236,320
1888 - - - -	228	236,535	228	235,535
1889 - - - -	392	434,912	391	434,733
Total - - -	853	907,767	852	906,588

ST. LUCIA.

70. The number of sailing vessels or their tonnage has not varied much within the last three years, but the number of steamers increased from 228 in 1888 to 392 in 1889, 363 of them being under the British flag.

71. Of this latter number 241 entered in ballast and came exclusively for coal, 100 coming from South American ports. Of these 241 steamers that came in ballast, 132 cleared in ballast, after coaling, for the United States, principally for New Orleans, Mobile, and Galveston.

72. The total tonnage of steam vessels and sailing ships that entered and also cleared amounted to 450,000 tons on each side.

Excise.

73. Only six distilleries took out licenses to work during the year against nine in the previous year, the result being that the quantity of rum manufactured fell from 82,815 gallons in 1888 to 46,310 gallons in 1889.

74. This decrease in the production reduced the stock in the island from 22,969 gallons at the commencement of the year to 6,335 on the 31st December, as the consumption was about the average of 60,000 gallons.

75. The effect of this decreased manufacture, and consequent reduction in the stock, sent up the price towards the end of the year to 3*s*. a gallon, when it is often as low as 1*s*. a gallon.

76. In order to secure greater control over the spirits kept at the distilleries an Ordinance was passed which provides for the establishment of warehouses, under the control of revenue officers, at all the distilleries, into which warehouses all rum is deposited as soon as it is manufactured. This plan will, I believe, be of some service, and protect both the revenue and the owner of the distillery.

Prisons.

77. There is only one prison in St. Lucia, known as the "Royal Gaol," and it is situated at the end of the town of Castries, on the southern bank of the river.

78. Being an old building it is not constructed according to modern ideas of a model prison, but it is about to be improved considerably.

79. During the past year a concrete building of two storeys was erected containing four punishment cells, and many minor improvements were carried out under the superintendence of the new keeper of the prison, Mr. Bartlett, who came to the Colony in May from the "Convict Officers' Service" in England.

80. The total number of committals was 323, and the daily average number in prison 40·8, a decrease in every way on the previous year.

81. The health of the prisoners was satisfactory, the prevailing complaints being ordinary fever and ulcers, with a little diarrhœa in August.

82. Two deaths occurred during the year, both prisoners being chronic invalids undergoing long sentences.

83. The new diet scale worked very satisfactorily, and the discipline of the prison has been efficiently maintained in every respect.

Criminal Statistics.

84. From the following table it appears that offences of all sorts have decreased during the past year, except "offences against the person."

85. There was a curious run of these offences for a short period in the early part of the year, but latterly I have heard less of the matter.

86. The introduction of an Ordinance permitting flogging on a conviction in cases where a razor or other cutting instrument had been used may have had something to do with the diminution in the latter part of the year of offences against the person.

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions and Acquittals for the last Four Years.

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Number of offences reported to the police -	1,334	1,309	1,339	1,212
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - -	1,800	1,696	1,585	1,430
Number of summary convictions :				
1. For offences against the person - -	235	225	172	198
2. For praedial larceny - - -	10	29	35	25
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny - - - -	84	89	99	67
4. For other offences - - - -	467	454	443	320
Number of convictions in Superior Court :				
1. For offences against the person - -	6	11	7	18
2. For offences against property other than praedial larceny - - -	9	4	16	5
Number of persons acquitted:				
1. In the Inferior Courts - - -	972	879	806	780
2. In the Superior Courts - - -	12	11	7	16

Hospitals and Asylums.

87. The Victoria Hospital, situated about half a mile from the town, on an eminence on the southern side of the Harbour of Castries, is the most striking looking building in the Colony, and is in every respect the best adapted, as it is the newest, building in the Windward Islands.

ST. LUCIA.

88. During the year 1,900 patients were treated in the institution :—

Coolies - - - - -	1,301
St. Lucians - - - -	198
West Indians generally - - -	142
Seamen - - - - -	18
Police and prison warders - -	58
Soldiers - - - - -	183
Total - - -	1,900

89. It will thus be seen that two thirds of the patients were East Indian immigrants.

90. Early in the year the female paupers had to be transferred to the Victoria Hospital, as the building they occupied in Castries was required by the War Department, and the influx of these old and incurable cases raised the number of deaths during the year to 67.

91. I attach a table showing the number of patients treated and deaths that occurred in each of the hospitals :—

	Patients.	Deaths.	Rate.
Victoria - - - -	1,900	67	3·6
Poor and Incurable - -	121	34	28·1
Yaws Asylum - - -	256	6	2·3
Soufrière - - - -	230	20	8·6
Vieux Fort - - -	174	9	5·1
Dennery - - - -	141	7	4·8
Total - -	2,822	143	5·1

Also a summary of the cases treated in the several dispensaries :—

	Patients.	Vaccinations.
Castries - - - -	3,790	112
Gros Islet - - - -	406	40
Anse la Raye - - -	—	—
Soufrière - - - -	2,682	146
Choiseul - - - -	97	50
Vieux Fort - - - -	1,161	48
Micoud - - - -	65	—
Dennery - - - -	455	—

92. The net cost to the general revenue for medical establishments—hospitals, asylums, pauper relief, &c.—was 4,691*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

Climate.

93. The climate of St. Lucia is damp, and the year 1889 was exceptionally wet throughout the West Indies. Notwithstanding this the health of the island was excellent, and I believe the climate on Morne Fortuné, where the barracks are being erected, is as well suited for Europeans as any that could be found in these Lesser Antilles.

94. A maximum thermometer, hung inside a room in the old Military Hospital, used for the last 20 years as Government House, has never risen above 83°. From the 1st of December (up to date, 25th March) it has not on a single day stood higher than 79°, and on an average the extreme heat in the galleries of the house has been about 75°.

95. It must be remembered too that there is generally a fresh breeze blowing on the Morne, at an elevation of 800 feet, and this makes it feel much cooler even than the thermometer registers.

96. The town of Castries is a seaport and coaling station, and as such it cannot be expected that it ever can be a desirable place of residence, but I am astonished how healthy it is.

97. If the hills round the town were not so precipitous, and light cheap railways could be constructed to take the bulk of the people engaged in commerce during the day to the suburbs after their work was over, it would be a great boon.

98. Walking up the steep hills is a great exertion, and the danger of getting a chill when heated on arriving at the top is a drawback to residing there, which cheap and easy transport would remove.

General Remarks.

99. St. Lucia is now in a transition state, emerging from being at the bottom of the group of Windward Islands to take the first place in importance in these waters and with a future before it.

100. Agriculturally, it has for some years been ahead, as it is the only small island that possesses large sugar factories or usines, and it certainly makes sugar of a higher class than any other Windward or Leeward Island. What is known as the "diffusion process" is about being applied to the Cul-de-sac usine, and it and the factory at Vieux Fort are, I believe, usines that will stand comparison with any in the West Indies.

101. Commercially, the harbour of Castries is the largest and best in these islands, and the only one, except Jamaica, at which large steamers drawing 27 feet of water can come alongside a wharf and discharge their cargo or be coaled.

102. With the prospect of a large garrison being quartered here very shortly, there is every hope that the island will advance

ST. LUCIA. in many ways, and I am sure that as it moves slowly ahead many of its former detractors will admit the advantages it possesses over the other neighbouring islands, and that the "unhealthiness" and "serpent" stories have all been exaggerated.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

Government House, St. Lucia,
March 29, 1890.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 93.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of the Colonial Possessions Report No. 25.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.

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1890.

C.—5897.–23.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
45	New Guinea	1887
46	Newfoundland	"
47	New Zealand	"
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	"
50	Bermuda	"
51	Trinidad	"
52	Turk's Islands	"
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	"
54	Falkland Islands	"
55	Bahamas	"
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	"
59	Straits	"
60	Natal	"
61	Gambia	"
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888

No. 93.

ST. VINCENT.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 25.]

Sir WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON to Lord KNUTSFORD.

Grenada, March 26, 1890.

Copies of the Blue Book are forwarded herewith.

WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

Government House, St. Vincent,
March 19, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency my Report on the Blue Book for the year ended 31st December 1888. I regret that I have been unable to forward it before, owing to a continuous pressure of work since my arrival in this Colony in July 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IRWIN C. MALING,
Administrator.

His Excellency
The Hon. Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Grenada.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ST. VINCENT for the Year 1888.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

1. But little alteration in taxation was made in 1888. By Ordinance No. 23 of 1887, which came into force on the 1st of January, the lesser rate of tax (1 per cent.) was extended to all incomes not exceeding 300*l.* instead of 200*l.* as theretofore, the higher rate ($1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) being collected on all incomes above that limit. This Ordinance also altered the land tax. Prior to 1888 it was charged according to the product cultivated, land cultivated in cane, cocoa, cotton, or arrowroot, paying per acre 1*s.*, land otherwise cultivated per acre 6*d.*, and land in pasture per acre 3*d.*, whereas, in 1888, there was imposed

62540. Wt. 19305.

ST. VINCENT.

on all lands alike in St. Vincent 4*d.* per acre, and on all lands in the Grenadines 2*d.* per acre.

The Charcoal Ordinance, which came into operation in May, substituted 30*s.* as the cost of licenses to sell charcoal *elsewhere* than in a shop, and *in* a shop respectively for 5*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.*, the cost of wholesale (annual) and retail (half-yearly) licenses. This Ordinance also imposed a tax of 5*s.* for every license to make charcoal.

The former Excise duty of 4*s.* 2*d.* per proof gallon was reduced to 3*s.* An import duty on dogs (previously free) of 10*s.* per head was imposed. That on corn and grain and kerosine oil was slightly increased to 4*d.* per bushel and 2½*d.* per gallon respectively, and a duty placed on tobacco, long cigars (long toms), of 1*s.* per pound.

In January a new scale of fees for medical officers for attendance on labourers was issued, reducing slightly certain fees formerly chargeable.

The Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1887, which became law on the 29th December, 1887, authorised a scale of fees the same as those of the Supreme Court of Judicature in general. In cases, however, where the property of the debtor does not exceed 50*l.* the scale is reduced by one half.

Revenue.

2. The revenue of 1888 amounted to 23,521*l.* as against 29,399*l.* in the previous year, thus showing an apparent decrease in 1888 of nearly 5,878*l.* It must be explained, however, that of this sum 5,739*l.* is merely nominal, being made up of amounts repaid from certain special funds, which had been advanced from the general revenue, and of moneys of the Crown Agents used by means of overdrawing their account, which repayments and overdraft together were treated in the accounts as a loan. The revenue of 1887 was therefore fictitious to the extent of 5,739*l.*, and the actual falling off of the revenue of 1888 not more than about 139*l.*

The several items of the 1888 revenue on being compared with those of the previous year show increases of (1) 835*l.* nearly from export taxes (owing to the collection of those duties, which during the last three-quarters of 1887 were suspended); (2) 389*l.* from income and land taxes, and (3) 213*l.* under a few other heads, making a total increase equal to 1,437*l.* The decreases under the remaining heads, however, amounted to 1,576*l.*, the largest being in the collections from import duties, viz., 523*l.*

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure of 1888 was 24,093*l.* nearly, and that of 1887 29,720*l.* There was therefore in the former year a curtailment of 5,627*l.* Comparison of the two years exhibits a slight increase of expenditure under six heads only, viz., civil 145*l.*, judicial 14*l.*, pensions 218*l.* nearly, interest 153*l.*,

repayment of loans 360*l.*, and drawbacks and refund of duties 96*l.* nearly, equal to a total of 986*l.*

The increases under the two first-mentioned heads were due to the payment in 1888 of the Administrator's salary (in abeyance in 1887) less the reduction made in 1888 in the establishment, and to the full expenditure of the judicial vote in 1888. Reductions, on the other hand, amounting to 6,613*l.* appear under the following heads:—

	£
Police establishment - - -	929
Ecclesiastical salaries and grants - -	1,107
Hospitals - - - - -	448 nearly.
Police and prison - - - -	494
Postal services - - - -	687
Works and buildings - - -	1,510 nearly.
Miscellaneous services - - -	846 nearly.
Generally on other services - -	592
Total - -	6,613

Local Revenues.

4. In addition to the general revenue of the Colony there were the local revenues of the immigration, the public (formerly Ordnance) lands and buildings, the Kingstown Waterworks, and the town of Kingstown accounts, as well as those of the several small towns, six in number. These accounts, however, do not appear to call for any special comment.

Public Debt.

5. 3,600*l.* was raised in August under the Public Loan Ordinance to provide for the payment of the overdraft on the Crown Agents' account. 5,250*l.* was authorised, but it was only found necessary to raise the first-mentioned sum. A further sum of 80*l.* was also raised under the St. Vincent Government House Loan Ordinance, 1882, making a total of 3,280*l.* raised out of 4,000*l.* authorised. The public debt of the Colony at the close of the year was 13,240*l.*, all of which has been raised under debentures repayable in future years.

Public Works.

6. No work was done under this head except the up-keep of roads (1,024*l.* of 1,130*l.* voted) and a few repairs to public buildings, &c. (180*l.*).

Legislation.

7. Thirty-one Ordinances were passed and became law, of which the following are the more important:—

No. 5.—To authorise summary ejectment from land in certain cases and for the protection of lands of the Crown.

No. 8.—To consolidate and amend the law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 9.—To repeal an Act intituled "An Act to restrain the "cutting down trees, and the burning and unlicensed dealing in "charcoal within this government" and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 10.—To authorise the reception and detention in the Colony of St. Vincent of certain political prisoners.

No. 11.—To make provision for inquiry into the causes of wrecks on the coast of this Colony, for the appointment of receivers of wreck and defining their duties, and for the apportionment of salvage.

No. 18.—To amend an Act intituled "An Act to provide for rights of way to the Crown lands."

No. 20.—To make general provisions respecting debentures issued for securing loans to be made to this Colony.

No. 25.—To repeal "The Harbour Master's Act, 1865," and to provide for the performance of the duties of a port officer for the port of Kingstown.

No. 26.—To provide for granting certificates to pilots and for regulating their duties and fees.

No. 27.—To repeal "The Passage Boats Traffic Act, 1866," and to make other provisions for the regulation of passage boats.

The last three Ordinances only became law on 31st December.

Pensions.

8. The following pensions were granted during the year, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Rev. Canon Connell, late rector of the Grenadines - - -	220	0	0
Mr. E. H. Musson, late auditor -	75	0	0
Three police constables, 15*l.*, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and 6*l.* respectively - -	34	6	8

Foreign Consuls.

9. Mr. Waldemar Hanschell of Barbados was appointed, on the 26th March, as German consul for Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia. The only other consul was the Honourable William E. Hughes for the United States of America.

Population.

10. Excluding still-births (95), there were 1,811 births and 783 deaths. There must, therefore, have been an addition of 1,028 souls to the population, estimated at the close of 1887 to be. 45,844. There were 154 marriages.

Education.

11. The number of primary schools receiving State aid was 44, with a total of 5,128 children on the registers. The daily average was 3,440, whilst 4,318 were present on the day of examination.

In 1887 there were three more schools, but each of the above numbers exceeds the corresponding totals in 1887. The amount of State aid in 1888 was less than in the previous year, the rates having been somewhat reduced.

Imports.

12. The total value of imports from all countries amounted to 79,777*l.* Of this 42,532*l.* was imported from the United Kingdom; 7,560*l.* from foreign countries, principally the United States of America, and 29,685*l.* from British Colonies.

Exports.

13. The total value of the exports was calculated to be 81,836*l.*, of which 80,581*l.* was the produce and manufacture of the Colony. Of the latter there was sent to—

	£
The United Kingdom - - -	22,917
Foreign countries, principally the United States (44,046*l.*) - - -	45,127
British Colonies - - - -	12,537

The following comparative table shows the values for the five years 1884 to 1888 inclusive of the principal productions and manufactures of the Colony exported :—

Articles.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar - - - -	70,105	74,543	34,692	43,891	42,108
Arrowroot - - -	23,941	34,966	21,672	26,277	23,552
Molasses - - - -	4,074	3,631	4,700	5,803	5,201
Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs -	1,811	949	2,007	2,240	1,872
Rum - - - -	10,052	8,167	1,824	1,611	1,846
Cocoa - - - -	608	955	868	1,140	1,615
Firewood - - - -	376	266	208	666	783
Vegetables, fruit, pease, &c. -	324	324	863	754	659
Cassava starch and farina -	567	2,076	395	435	534
Cotton and cotton seed - -	858	639	356	880	527
Ground nuts - - -	229	606	499	301	483
Spice and preserves - -	311	538	427	333	357
Whale oil - - -	1,077	534	1,230	693	336
Horses and asses - - -	92	134	90	152	336

Criminal Statistics.

14. There cannot be said to have been any increase in crime. The daily average number of prisoners in the Colony gaol was only 25 out of a population of over 45,000, a fact which speaks for itself. The total number of persons committed was 185, of whom 109 were men, 74 women, and two were juveniles.

Hospital.

15. The number of patients remaining in the Colonial hospital at the end of 1887 was 35, the number admitted during the year 1888 329, making a total of 364 patients. Of these 30 died and 207 were cured, the remainder being returned as relieved (89) and not improved (38).

General Remarks.

16. Not having arrived in St. Vincent until July last, I have no knowledge of what took place in the year 1888, and am unable to make any remarks on the general condition of the Colony during that year.

It may be of interest, in conclusion, to add that the Ex-King Ja Ja of Opobo, accompanied by his son Sunday, arrived, in June 1888, in H.M.S. "Icarus." It was to legalise his reception and detention in this Colony as a political prisoner that Ordinance No. 10 of that year was passed.

IRWIN C. MALING,
Administrator.

19th March 1890.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

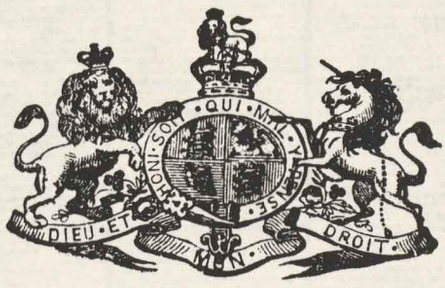
No. 94.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 93.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.-24.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

	Colony.	Year.
43	Victoria	1887
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	,,
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,

No. 94.

ST. VINCENT.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 93.)

Sir W. HELY HUTCHINSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Grenada, April 9, 1890.

Forwarded.

WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON.

Government House, St. Vincent,
April 5, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report upon the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1889.

2. The Blue Book will be forwarded as soon as it is printed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) IRWIN C. MALING,
Administrator

His Excellency
The Hon. Sir Walter Hely Hutchinson, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE ST. VINCENT BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

I.—*Taxation.*

The following were the changes made in taxes:—

(*a.*) Under "The Immigration Aid Ordinance, 1888," the first item in the schedule annexed to "The Immigration Aid Ordinance, 1887," imposing an export tax on sugar, was struck out, viz.:—

"On every hogshead of sugar of 34-inch truss and upwards, 1*s.* 3*d.*," and the following items inserted in lieu thereof:—

"On every hogshead of sugar of 34-inch truss and upwards to 40-inch truss inclusive, 1*s.* 3*d.*

"On every hogshead of sugar above 40-inch truss, 1*s.* 6*d.*"

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ST. VINCENT.

(*b.*) The tax of 2*s.* on every hogshead of sugar of 38-inch truss and upwards, raised under "The Export Tax Ordinance, 1887," was repealed, and the following rates fixed under "The Export Tax Ordinance, 1888":—

"On every hogshead of sugar, the produce of this Colony, of 38-inch truss and upwards to 40-inch truss inclusive, 2*s.*

"On every hogshead of sugar as aforesaid above 40-inch truss, 2*s.* 4*d.*"

(*c.*) The tax of 4*d.* per acre on land in St. Vincent, and 2*d.* per acre on land in the Grenadines, was increased to 6*d.* and 3*d.* per acre respectively.

II.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

In 1889 the revenue was 27,522*l.*, and the expenditure 21,830*l.* In 1888 the revenue was 23,698*l.*, whilst the expenditure amounted to 24,092*l.*

The improved financial condition of the Colony at the close of the past year may be concisely shown by the following statement:—

On the 1st of January 1888 the deficit was 5,174*l.*

On the 1st of January 1889 it was really 5,745*l.*, although apparently 2,145*l.*, inasmuch as a loan of 3,600*l.* was raised in August 1888 under "The Public Loan Ordinance, 1888," which reduced the deficit from the former to the latter sum.

On the 1st of January 1890, however, there was a surplus of 3,028*l.*, and that, too, without any further money being borrowed, and in spite of the destructive rain-storm of September last; a somewhat refreshing result after the experience of the two former years. With reference to this surplus, however, it must be explained that a portion, viz., about 1,400*l.*, is fictitious, owing to certain payments in respect of 1889 amounting to that sum not having been made before the close of that year, but during the current year. The real surplus was therefore about 1,600*l.*

Revenue.—In the following table the receipts of the year will be seen under the respective heads, and also those under the same heads in the previous year (1888):—

Details.	Revenue, 1888.	Revenue, 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
Customs:	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
Import duties -	11,709 15 0	13,719 13 1	2,009 18 1	—	Revival of trade.
Export duties -	1,027 12 3	1,268 2 10	240 10 7	—	Larger sugar crop.
Tonnage dues -	827 14 0	1,139 8 0	311 14 0	—	Sympathy with import and export duties.
Harbour dues -	—	237 4 0	237 4 0	—	Legislation diverting fees of former harbour master into Treasury.
Excise:					
Duty on rum - -	3,787 9 6	4,394 8 0	606 18 6	—	Increased sales of rum.
Warehouse rent -	86 2 1	47 2 8	—	38 19 5	Rum warehoused shorter periods in 1889.

Details.	Revenue, 1888.	Revenue, 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Stamps: Revenue	388 5 0	456 2 8	67 17 8	—	
Taxes: Income	391 16 5	415 0 5	23 4 0	—	
Land	831 18 9	1,268 1 11	436 3 2	—	Increase of tax from 4*d.* to 6*d.* an acre.
Licenses by treasurer: Liquor	742 10 0	756 10 0	14 0 0	—	
Stills	122 0 0	116 0 0	—	6 0 0	
Auctioneers, &c.	26 5 0	20 0 0	—	6 5 0	
Transient traders	—	10 0 0	10 0 0	—	
Porters	3 1 0	3 15 0	0 14 0	—	
Passage boots	—	5 2 6	5 2 6	—	
Licenses by magistrates: Boats, Droghers, Guns, Dogs, Horses, &c., Carriages, &c.	848 19 4	1,033 14 3	184 14 11	—	Better enforcement of the License Law.
Charcoal	15 10 0	51 5 0	35 15 0	—	Partly affected by legislation.
Boatmen	1 11 0	1 14 0	0 3 0	—	
Whalers	1 18 0	2 15 0	0 17 0	—	
Postage: Sale of stamps	602 6 10	847 12 11	245 6 1	—	
Commission, M.O., &c.	48 17 3	42 17 2	—	6 0 1	
Fines, &c.	422 13 5	564 6 4	141 12 11	—	Chiefly owing to larger number of fines under License Law.
Fees of office: Registrar	241 14 7	164 12 2	—	77 2 5	
Police magistrates	361 11 6	331 14 0	—	29 17 6	Diminished litigation.
Sale of Government property.	115 7 10	—	—	115 7 10	
Reimbursements in aid: Tobago convicts	10 8 4	—	—	10 8 4	Granted tickets of leave.
Hospital	126 16 11	133 13 7	6 16 8	—	
Cemetery	53 2 0	41 19 0	—	11 3 0	
Interest	356 8 8	—	—	356 8 8	Interest on investments for the savings bank is carried direct to credit of that account.
Miscellaneous	546 9 3	449 11 6	—	96 17 9	
	28,698 3 11	27,522 6 0	4,578 12 1	754 10 0	

From this table it will be seen that the net increase in the revenue of 1889 over that of 1888 was 3,824*l.*

With the exception of the harbour fees, land taxes, magistrates' licenses (dogs, &c.), and fines, &c., the increases are plainly due

ST. VINCENT.

to the revival of trade resulting from the somewhat better prices of sugar, rum, molasses, and arrowroot.

Expenditure.—The subjoined is a return similar in form to that of revenue:—

Details.	Expenditure, 1888.	Expenditure, 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Establishments: Civil	3,476 0 11	2,848 4 0	—	627 16 11	Abolition of harbour master's office; temporary reductions of salaries in Treasury and audit office, also in administrator's office.*
Judicial	3,095 0 0	2,927 1 3	—	167 18 9*	
Ecclesiastical	1,101 13 4	256 13 3	—	845 0 1	Pensioning of the Anglican clergy.
Education	50 0 0	49 11 8	—	0 8 4	
Medical	1,330 0 0	1,265 9 8	—	64 10 4	
Police (and excise in 1889).	2,145 15 2	2,264 18 3	119 3 1	—	Appointment of chief and transfer of excise to this department.
Prisons	337 8 0	302 14 8	—	34 13 4	Reduction of warders.
Civil (exclusive of establishments).	—	924 18 4	924 18 4	—	New head composed of revenue and postal services.
Pensions	845 19 1	1,526 10 5	680 11 4	—	Increase of pensioners.
Revenue services (exclusive of establishments).	312 19 3	—	—	312 19 3*	Transferred to "civil."
Administration of justice (exclusive of establishments).	209 17 1	200 8 10	—	9 8 3	
Ecclesiastical (exclusive of establishments).	294 2 9	—	—	294 2 9	Abolition of endowment.
Charitable allowances	494 6 9	296 7 10	—	197 18 2*	Reduction of grant.
Education (exclusive of establishments).	1,638 12 6	1,439 9 7	—	199 2 11*	Reduction.
Medical (exclusive of establishments).	—	14 14 0	14 14 0	—	New head.
Hospitals (exclusive of establishments).	2,563 6 5	2,136 5 4	—	427 1 1*	Reduction.
Police and prisons (exclusive of establishments).	719 16 1	506 3 6	—	213 12 7*	Reduction.
Rent	50 3 4	—	—	50 3 4	Transferred to "police."
Telegraphs	400 0 0	—	—	400 0 0	Transferred to "miscellaneous."
Postal services	596 8 0	—	—	596 8 0	Transferred to "civil."
Works and buildings	336 19 11	751 17 10	414 17 11	—	New works and larger repairs.
Roads and bridges	1,023 16 0	1,231 17 4	208 1 4	—	Excessive damage to roads in September.
Interest	679 13 10	364 0 0	—		Transfer to savings bank account direct of interest on investments.
Repayment of loans	360 0 0	710 0 0	350 0 0	—	
Militia and volunteers	15 0 0	—	—	15 0 0	
Drawbacks, &c.	151 18 0	127 9 4	—	24 8 8	
Miscellaneous services	1,863 18 10	1,685 5 7	—	178 13 3*	
	24,092 14 6	21,830 0 8	2,712 6 0	4,974 19 10	

* *See also* remarks below as to liabilities of 1889 paid in 1890.

From these figures it will be seen that the reduction in expenditure for the year, as compared with 1888, was 2,262*l.*

This, however, is fictitious to the extent of 1,400*l.*, the amount already alluded to in the remarks about the surplus.

The real decrease was therefore about 800*l.*

	£
The estimated expenditure authorised by the Appropriation Ordinance was - - - -	23,028
In addition there were—	
(1.) Amount of pensions, &c. awarded during the year	162
(2.) Amount of votes passed by the Legislative Council for special additional services - - -	548
Total authorised expenditure - - -	£23,738

whilst the real expenditure for the year was 21,830*l.* + 1,400*l.* = 23,230*l.*, showing a balance well within the limits of the authorised expenditure.

III.—*Public Debt.*

The total public debt at the 31st of December last was 13,780*l.* Two loans were raised during the year, for 4,750*l.* and 1,500*l.* respectively. The first was obtained to complete the repayment of a former loan; the second, under "The Kingstown Water Supply Loan Ordinance, 1889," was raised in order to procure the necessary pipes, &c. from England for the new waterworks, and to commence the work. A loan of 8,000*l.* is authorised for this work.

The repayment of each of these loans will be borne by special funds exclusive of the general revenue.

At the commencement of the year the public debt was 13,240*l.*, made up as follows:—

	£
(1.) Government House loan debenture holders -	2,320
(2.) Immigration loan „ „ -	5,000
(3.) Public Buildings loan „ „ -	1,400
(4.) Crown Lands loan „ „ -	920
(5.) Public loan „ „ -	3,600
	£13,240

The second loan was paid off in January, to do which the loan already referred to was raised. The fourth loan does not become repayable until 1895, and thenceforward. Of the other three loans 710*l.* was repaid. The repayment of all of these loans is provided for by the redemption annually of a certain number of debentures.

ST. VINCENT.

IV.—*Public Works.*

With the exception of making a culvert at Sion Hill, at a cost of 100*l.*, the expenditure has been entirely confined to the repairs of Government buildings and highways.

The total expenditure was 1,699*l.*, of which sum 1,232*l.* was spent on repairs, &c. to roads, due in a great measure to the damage caused by the rain-storm of September.

V.—*Grants of Land.*

There were 96 sales of Crown land effected during the year, comprising 297 acres, being an increase of 35 in the number of sales, and of 190 in the acreage, as compared with that of 1888.

VI.—*Legislation.*

Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year, of which I subjoin a list:—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Kingstown Water Supply Act, 1870,' and to provide for raising a loan for the purposes of the said Act and of 'The Kingstown Water Supply Ordinance, 1887,' and also to repeal 'The Kingstown Water Supply Loan Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 2. "An Ordinance to protect public officers and persons acting on behalf of the public in pursuance of any law from vexatious and frivolous suits."

No. 3. "An Ordinance to legalise the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the general revenue for the service of the year 1888 in addition to the sums already sanctioned under 'The Appropriation Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 4. "An Ordinance to repeal 'The Religious Endowments Act, 1873,' and section number ten of 'The Prisons Ordinance, 1878.'"

No. 5. "An Ordinance to amend 'The offences against the Person Ordinance, 1878.'"

No. 6. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Port Officer's Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 7. "An Ordinance to grant pensions to the Reverend Horatio William Laborde, late rector of the united parishes of Saint George and Saint Andrew, and late chaplain of the prison in Kingstown, to the Reverend Henry Flintof, late curate of the said parish of Saint Andrew, and to the Reverend Samuel Fitt Branch, late rector of the united parishes of Saint Patrick and Saint David."

No. 8. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Labourers' Occupancy of Land Regulation Ordinance, 1886.'"

No. 9. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1887.'"

No. 10. "An Ordinance to re-enact certain amendments to an Act intituled 'An Act to amend the laws relating to marriage in this island and its dependencies.'"

No. 11. "An Ordinance to regulate the carriage of passengers between Saint Vincent and certain places adjacent thereto."

No. 12. "An Ordinance to grant a lien on the crop of certain plantations to the person advancing money in respect of such crop, and to abolish what is known as the consignees' lien."

No. 13. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Land Trespass Prevention and Crown Lands Protection Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 14. "An Ordinance to provide for the maintenance of persons unable to maintain themselves by the parents, children, or relatives of such persons."

No. 15. "An Ordinance to provide for the relief of the poor."

No. 16. "An Ordinance to amend 'The Income and Land Tax Ordinance, 1887,' and to repeal 'The Income and Land Tax Ordinance, 1888.'"

No. 17. "An Ordinance to provide for the payment of certain sums of money for the public service of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine."

VII.—*Imports and Exports.*

Imports

The total value of imports for the year under report was 98,212*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, as against 79,777*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* in 1888, showing an increase of 18,434*l.*

The increase is distributed over the whole list of items, with a few exceptions, and may be summarised thus—

	£
Food stuffs	2,875
Household goods	1,462
Clothing, furniture, cloth goods, hardware, &c.	3,891
Metals	474
Building materials	1,834
Plantation „	4,439
Horses	776
Mules	2,014
Stock food	363

A few other items make up the difference.

Nearly all these increases are the fruit of the rise in the price of sugar during the year. Plantation materials, to which may be added a large portion of building materials, stock food, horses, and all the mules are due directly—all the other increases indirectly—to sugar.

Of the increased imports there came from—	£
Great Britain	4,233
British Colonies (chiefly Barbados)	5,565
United States	8,462
Other places	174
	18,434

The Comptroller of Customs estimates that at least three fourths of the imports from the British Colonies were of United States produce.

Exports.

	£
The value of the exports of 1889 amounted to -	124,587
and of 1888 to - - - - -	81,837
showing an increase in 1889 of - - -	42,750

The increase was due chiefly to the enhanced value in 1889 of the staple products of the Colony, and in a less degree to an increase (except of rum) of the quantities of such products exported in 1889.

The following figures give the values and quantities of the principal products exported in 1889 and 1888:—

Values of Exports.

	£	£
Sugar:		
1889 - - - -	78,556	
1888 - - - -	42,108	
Increase in 1889 - - -		36,448
Rum:		
1889 - - - -	2,121	
1888 - - - -	1,847	
Increase in 1889 - - -		274
Molasses:		
1889 - - - -	8,502	
1888 - - - -	5,202	
Increase in 1889 - - -		3,300
Arrowroot:		
1889 - - - -	25,091	
1888 - - - -	23,552	
Increase in 1889 - - -		1,539
Cassava starch:		
1889 - - - -	631	
1888 - - - -	425	
Increase in 1889 - - -		206
Total increase in value in 1889 - - -		41,767

Quantities exported (all reduced to the common standard).

	Hhds.	Hhds.
Sugar:		
1889 - - -	5,820	
1888 - - - -	5,105	
Increase in 1889 - - -		715

Rum:	Puns.	Puns.
1889 - - - -	238	
1888 - - - -	400	
Decrease in 1889 - -	-	162
Molasses:		
1889 - - - -	2,833	
1888 - - - -	2,031	
Increase in 1889 - -	-	802
Arrowroot:	Barrels.	Barrels.
1889 - - - -	16,732	
1888 - - - -	15,458	
Increase in 1889 - -	-	1,274
Cassava starch:		
1889 - - - -	507	
1888 - - - -	340	
Increase in 1889 - -	-	167

The increase in the value of sugar, and its kindred products, rum and molasses, in 1889 was due to causes too well known to call for comment.

Arrowroot promises to permanently increase in value in consequence of improved methods of manufacture, by means of which the commodity is sent to market in a much purer state than formerly.

In 1888 the cultivation of arrowroot received a severe check, when the best quality sold at a barely profitable rate, whilst the price of that prepared without the aid of good machinery fell to a point that did not cover the cost of reaping and manufacture.

Import and Export Trade.

The import and export trade of the Colony in 1889 exceeded that of 1888 by 61,184*l.*, as shown by the following figures:—

1889:	£	£
Imports - - - -	98,212	
Exports - - - -	124,587	
Total - - - - -	-	222,799
1888:		
Imports - - - -	79,778	
Exports - - - -	81,837	
Total - - - - -	-	161,615
Increase in 1889 - -	-	61,184

ST. VINCENT.

The increase shown has manifested its effects in the improved public revenue, in the revival of trade, in the greater circulation of money, in extended cultivation of plantations, and the result thereof—the freer employment of the labouring and poorer population.

VIII.—*Shipping.*

Entered.—The number of sailing vessels entered at the port of Kingstown during the year was 361; of these 325 were British, 7 American, 8 Dutch, 20 Venezuelan, and 1 Norwegian.

The tonnage of these vessels amounted to 19,458, and their crews 1,971.

The number of steamers was 101, with tonnage 114,584, and number of crew 3,220.

Cleared.—The number of sailing vessels which cleared was 355, viz., to British West Indies 288, British North America 5, United States 17, Venezuelan 17, French West Indies 12, Dutch West Indies 9, Danish West Indies 5, Spanish West Indies 2. The tonnage was 17,497, number of crews 1,733.

The steamers which cleared were 101, with a tonnage of 114,584, and crews numbering 3,220.

It will be seen that the number of vessels entered in 1889 was greater by 18 (11 steamers, 7 sailing vessels) than that of 1888, and the actual carrying capacity was increased by 14,279, viz., sailing vessels 3,303 tons and steamers 10,976 tons.

IX.—*Education.*

At the close of the year there were 42 State-aided primary schools; of which 22 were under the patronage of Anglican ministers, 17 under that of Wesleyan ministers, and the Roman Catholic priest had the patronage of three; the remaining school was a Government or undenominational one.

As will be seen from the following table, the past year does not contrast favourably with 1888:—

	1888.			1889.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Government grant based on average -	675	13	6	661	8	8
Payments by results - - -	751	6	1	732	13	3
Payments to pupil-teachers - - -	122	13	2	54	0	0
Voluntary contributions - - -	137	10	0	88	2	6
Fees - - - - - -	218	18	9	228	12	2
Total - - £	1,906	1	6	1,764	16	7

	1888.	1889.
Number of schools - - - -	44	42
Average attendance - - - -	3,440	2,966

X.—*Securities of Public Officers.*

The bonds given by the several public officers for the due discharge of their duties, as required by law, have been duly examined and found in due form, the names of the several securities on behalf of these public officers being men good and sufficient for the amounts for which they are respectively bound.

XI.—*Hospitals.*

The return for the Colony Hospital shows that there were 38 inmates on the 1st January, 26 males and 12 females.

The number admitted during the year was 366, viz., 234 males and 132 females, making a total of 404 cases in this hospital; of these 242 were cured, 90 relieved, 39 not relieved, and 33 died.

The following table will give the number and kind of diseases treated, also the number of deaths:—

Diseases treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
General - - - - -	104	11
Local - - - - -	256	19
Injuries - - - - -	44	3
Total - - -	404	33

There remained on 31st December, 39 patients, of whom 23 were males and 16 females. The maximum number of patients (daily average) was 40 until the 1st August, when it increased to 45.

The return of operations performed at this institution during the year deserves notice, and it is my pleasing duty to record that out of the 50 patients operated upon not one has succumbed.

The net expenditure for the year amounted to 922*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

The average daily cost of each patient was 1*s.* 1½*d.*

The buildings are in capital order and repair, and the institution reflects much credit upon Dr. Newsam, the Colonial Surgeon, in every way.

Yaws Hospital.—No mention is made of the Yaws Hospital, as no such institution at present exists. It was closed by my predecessor in January, owing to the financial depression of the Colony; at that date it contained 24 patients, these being a very small proportion of the persons suffering from that complaint. It is but right that I should mention that this disease is widespread, and, the Colonial Surgeon informs me, is rapidly increasing.

From inquiry I have ascertained that leprosy also, though perhaps slowly, is surely on the increase, and although only 15 is the

average of patients treated in the leper asylum, there are many more at large.

There is no law (as in the case of Yaws) to compel those afflicted with this loathsome disease to go to the asylum and receive proper medical attendance. This subject is one which will, however, receive the early attention of the Government.

XII.—*Charitable and Literary Institutions.*

The daily average number of patients at the pauper asylum during the year was 59, and at the leper asylum, 15, a slight increase on that of 1888.

There has been no lunatic asylum in the Colony since the year 1883, when the establishment was broken up and the patients transferred to the asylum at Grenada; lunatics are detained at the pauper asylum until they can be sent to that island.

At Calliaqua there is a soup dispensary, which is supported by private contributions, aided by a Government grant of 50*l.*

XIII.—*Public Health.*

The Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer reports as follows with reference to the health of the Colony during the past year:—

"For the first three quarters of the year 1889 the health of the Colony was uniformly good. Few cases of local fever were treated in the several districts, and these chiefly of the intermittent type. There were admitted into Colonial Hospital, for the whole year, 16 cases of intermittent fever, and 5 of remittent. In common with 'other islands of the Windward Group, there 'was a visitation in the last quarter of measles and choleraic 'diarrhœa, which caused much mortality amongst infants.'

"The latter disease, which during December merged into dysentery, seemed to have found its way in wavelike progression from Trinidad to Grenada, thence to the Grenadines, and subsequently to this island; no doubt the outcome of atmospheric changes due to the exceptional rainfall everywhere of 1889."

XIV.—*Prison and Prisoners.*

There is but one common gaol, conducted partially on the separate system. It contains 21 cells, in each of which one male prisoner is confined at night; as a rule, only prisoners convicted at the Supreme Court are confined separately, but when accommodation is available, magisterial prisoners are also confined separately.

During the day prisoners at labour within the prison are worked apart from each other, though not actually separate; owing to the great reduction in the number of male convicts, the separate

system has been carried out in the male prison in its entirety from the 12th February to the end of the year.

During the year there were in all 192 persons committed to prison, a slight increase on last year's (1888) number; 97 men, 73 women, and 22 juveniles; out of these, 142 were committed for purposes of penal imprisonment—76 men, 55 women, and 11 juveniles.

The number of convictions (192) during the year, as compared with the population (about 46,000), speaks favourably for the peace of the community.

The daily average number of prisoners was 22·9, viz.:—

Men - - -	18·48
Women - - -	3·97
Juveniles - - -	·45

The highest number of males in any one day in gaol was 28, the lowest 12; of females the highest number 7, the lowest 1.

During the year there was only one death, from "choleraic diarrhœa," that of an old offender; *this has been the only death in the prison for seven years.*

There was one escape during the year, but the man was re-captured in a fortnight.

The prison vote, exclusive of the establishments, was 330*l.*, the expenditure 204*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

The daily cost of each prisoner for the year, including all expenses, was 22*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* or 1*s.* 2½*d.* per diem.

The sanitary state of the prison, as well as the general state of health maintained in this institution, was good.

XV.—*Criminal Statistics.*

Under the head "offences," the number reported to the police, or the magistrates, during the year was 2,041, an increase of 348 on the number reported in 1888.

Apprehensions and Summonses.

The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts was 2,041, as compared with 1,693 in the previous year.

The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Convicted - - -	1,140
Discharged - - - -	643
Acquitted - - - -	249
Sent on for trial to Superior Courts -	9
	2,041

Summary Convictions.

The number of these convictions in the magistrates' courts was 1,140.

ST. VINCENT.

Indictments and Informations in the Superior Courts.

The total number of cases sent for trial in the Supreme Court was 12, a slight decrease of 6 upon the number of cases in 1888.

The cases tried were disposed of as follows :—

Judgment for the Crown - - - -	6
„ prisoner - - - -	2
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution -	4

The following comparative table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years :—

—	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
The number of offences reported to the police - - - - - - -	1,804	1,337	1,693	2,041
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - - - - - - -				
The number of summary convictions :				
1. For offences against the person -	160	108	110	129
2. For praedial larceny - - -	69	66	35	46
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	151	70	96	125
4. For other offences - - -	466	226	539	840
The number of convictions in superior courts :				
1. For offences against the person -	1	1	2	2
2. For arson - - - - - -	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	—	2	4	4
4. For other offences - - -	5	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	244	230	244	249
2. In the superior courts - - -	—	—	8	2

XVI.—*Civil Establishments.*

There were several changes, both temporary and permanent, during the year, of which the following were the most important :—

His Honour R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G., left the Colony on the 17th of March for St. Lucia to assume the administration of the government of that Colony, and the Honourable J. Choppin, Attorney-General, assumed the administration of the Government as senior member of the Executive Council.

His Honour Captain Irwin C. Maling arrived in the Colony on the 11th of July and assumed the administration of the Government.

Mr. E. D. Laborde was appointed Chief of Police and Head of the Excise Department from the 1st of January.

On the 16th January the Honourable Gerrit Van Heyningen, Police Magistrate of the Kingstown District and Member of the Legislative Council, obtained nine months' leave, and Mr. H. H.

Walton was appointed to act as Police Magistrate of the Kingstown District.

On the 1st October Mr. H. B. Isaacs was appointed to act as first landing waiter and port officer.

Mr. H. E. Lynch, Police Magistrate of the Windward District, obtained 12 months' leave of absence from the 1st of November, and Mr. C. J. M'Leod, Registrar of the Supreme Court, was appointed to act in his stead, Mr. E. C. Lewis, Colonial Postmaster, being appointed to act for Mr. M'Leod, whilst Mr. F. W. Griffith was appointed acting Postmaster.

XVII.—*Councils.*

In the Executive and Legislative Councils the Honourable Wm. E. Hughes was granted three months' leave of absence, which was extended to the end of the year.

In the Legislative Council the Honourables G. Van Heyningen and George Smith were granted nine and three months' leave respectively.

XVIII.—*Pensions.*

The new pensions granted during 1889 were:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1.) The Venerable Archdeacon Laborde, late rector of the united parishes of Saint George and Saint Andrew - -	384	8	11
(2.) The Rev. Hy. Flintof, late curate of the parish of Saint Andrew - -	50	11	1
(3.) The Rev. S. F. Branch, late rector of the united parishes of Saint Patrick and Saint David - - - -	185	0	0
(4.) Mr. R. P. Linley, late Harbour Master -	79	7	2
(5.) Mr. E. Laborde, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary - - - -	340	0	0
(6.) Wm. Jackson, late Sergeant-Major of Police - - - - -	25	4	2
(7.) Mr. G. W. Browne, late First Landing Waiter - - - -	61	6	8
	1,125	18	0

There was one death amongst the pensioners, that of Mr. E. H. Musson, late auditor.

XIX.—*Vital Statistics.*

During the year the births, exclusive of still-births (98), were 1,801; in 1888 they amounted to 1,811; the still-births being 95.

ST. VINCENT.

The deaths, exclusive of still-births (98), were 1,034; in 1888, 783.

The excess of living births over deaths was, therefore, 767, an increase of population as small as that in 1888, 1028, was large.

The total number of marriages was 152.

During the last quarter of the year the number of both the births and the deaths was high, being 528 and 368 respectively; the latter is chiefly explained under the head of "Public Health."

The estimated population at the end of 1888 was 46,872. At the close of 1889, therefore, it ought to have been over 47,500 souls.

XX.—*General Remarks.*

Contrasting the general results of the year under review with those of the two previous years, it will be seen that there is a marked improvement, and that the Colony is beginning to recover from the severe and general depression from which all the sugar-producing Colonies suffered so much.

It was unfortunate that on the 13th and 14th September last there should have occurred the destructive and heavy rain-storm, to repair the damage done by which has fallen heavily on the Colony; although, on the other hand, there were fortunately surplus funds (wanted, however, for other purposes) wherewith to meet the emergency.

So far as can be seen at the date of this report there will be equal, if not larger, crops during the current year, and the fact that a great deal more attention is being paid to industries other than sugar and arrowroot leads one to believe that more prosperous years are in store for this beautiful and only partially developed little Colony.

(Signed) IRWIN C. MALING,
Administrator.

St. Vincent,
31st March 1890.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 75.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 42.)

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1889.

[C.—5897.-5.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
25	St. Vincent	1887
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department)	,,
27	Leeward Islands	,,
28	British Guiana	,,
29	Western Australia	,,
30	Falkland Islands	,,
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	,,
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	,,
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,

No. 75.

SIERRA LEONE.

Administrator FOSTER to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 31, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1888, with the report (dated 25th June) of Major Crooks, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY FOSTER, Major,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF 1888.

Colonial Secretariat,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
June 25, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1888 :—

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

No changes under this head have taken place during the year under report, and there is no direct taxation in the Colony. When the annual estimates were submitted to Council, and it was proposed to re-impose a tax on houses and lands and dues for the use of public markets and slaughter houses in order to equalise revenue and expenditure, the latter being 7,000*l.* in excess of the anticipated receipts for the year, the resolution was opposed by the unofficial members.

o 60215. Wt. 13155.

SIERRA LEONE.

I think the Colonies must be few in which meat, fish, and vegetable markets have been handed over to the community and kept in repair without any charge for the use of the buildings.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue from all sources, including Imperial grant in aid of Colonial steamer, was 63,035*l.*, and the estimated revenue 60,679*l.*, showing an increase of 2,356*l.* on the estimated amount, the rise under the head of Customs being 2,075*l.*

The expenditure amounted to 63,288*l.*, and the estimated expenditure 67,617*l.*, showing a saving of 4,329*l.* on the sum voted. The actual receipts, however, formed the basis for expenditure, and but for some liabilities of 1887—*e.g.*, education grant, Colonial steamer, and telegraph subsidy—the payments would have been well within the year's revenue.

The revenue and expenditure for the past three years have been—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1886 - - - -	62,935	63,482
1887 - - - -	60,637	58,334
1888 - - - - -	63,035	63,288

3.—MUNICIPALITIES.

There is no municipality in the Colony or other local body invested with authority, but there are a few associations formed by private individuals for the purpose of interesting themselves in local matters.

4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

A public debt of 50,000*l.* was raised in 1871–73 for the construction of public works, to be repaid in 1896–98, the sinking fund for which on 31st December 1888 amounted to 23,350*l.*

A loan of 38,000*l.* was obtained in 1877 from the Imperial Government on account of the financial difficulties of the Colony, 30,000*l.* of which has been repaid.

The liabilities of the Colony exceeded its assets on—

	£
31st December 1886 by	42,313
„ „ 1887 „	42,558
„ „ 1888 „	40,693

5.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE, MILITIA.

Sierra Leone contributes nothing to the Imperial Exchequer towards the maintenance of the garrison stationed here nor towards the expenditure incurred in the construction of the fortifications for the defence of Freetown Harbour. The returns furnished by the local officer in charge of the Imperial chest show that the sum of 34,466*l.* was spent in 1888 by the Home Government on account of the military establishment here.

The amount paid by the Colony to the garrison in lieu of exemption from customs duties was 321*l.*

The Sierra Leone royal militia was disbanded in 1863, and since then no similar corps has been reorganised. It is a matter for consideration whether a volunteer corps should be created on conditions analogous to those which regulate such organisations in other British Colonies. Hitherto there has been no appreciable spontaneous effort from the public generally for the carrying out of such a scheme, but there is little doubt that, should it be countenanced and encouraged by the Government, it will find favour with the people and be advantageous in time of emergency.

6.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure under this head was only 902*l.* for ordinary repairs to buildings, and 449*l.* upkeep of the roads and streets, or two-thirds of the sum voted. In previous years a sum of 6,000*l.* was voted for these services, and that amount could be well spent in much-needed repairs to our buildings and bridges, but funds for the purpose are not forthcoming.

7.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to explain and amend the "Criminal Verdict Ordinance, 1883."

No. 2.—An Ordinance to further amend the "Gold Coast Lunatics Ordinance, 1883."

No. 3.—An Ordinance authorising and legalising the expenditure of the year 1887 to be applied and expended up to the 30th day of June next.

No. 4.—An Ordinance providing for the better preservation of public order in the streets of Freetown.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to prohibit the improper publication or divulging of telegraphic messages and the forging of telegrams.

No. 6.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Settlement of Sierra Leone for the year 1888.

No. 7.—An Ordinance to provide for the maintenance of married women who shall have been deserted by their husbands.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to provide for the compensation in respect of the loss or damage of parcels transmitted through the Post Office of Sierra Leone.

No. 9.—An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the West Africa Settlements the necessary power for the detention and deportation of certain political prisoners.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to shipwrecked passengers.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1887 beyond the expenditure authorised by law.

No. 12.—An Ordinance authorising the Governor of West Africa Settlements to prohibit munitions of war from being exported from the Settlement.

No. 13.—An Ordinance for the deportation of certain political prisoners to the Colony of Lagos or elsewhere in Her Majesty's dominions.

No. 14.—An Ordinance to define the local jurisdiction of the police Magistrate and managers of districts, and to make further provision for the administration of justice in the remaining portions of the Settlement.

No. 15.—An Ordinance to enable the Government of Sierra Leone and other persons to acquire lands for the purpose of making cemeteries.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to provide for the discontinuance of burials in any part of the Settlement where the same may be prejudicial to health.

No. 17.—An Ordinance to abolish the office of Chief Justice of the West Africa Settlements and to create the office of Chief Justice of Sierra Leone.

No. 18.—An Ordinance to confer upon the Governor of the West Africa Settlements the necessary power for the detention and deportation of certain political prisoners.

8.—COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

Executive Council.

Lieutenant-Colonels Maltby and Patchett, the West India Regiment, became members by virtue of their assuming command of the troops on the West Coast of Africa, and Major Crooks on appointment as Acting Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.

Legislative Council.

The changes in the Executive Council apply also to the Legislative Council.

J. A. M'Carthy, Esq., B.L., was also a member while acting as Queen's Advocate from September to October.

Board of Education.

Lieutenant-Colonels Maltby and Patchett and Major Crooks joined the Board as members of the Executive Council.

Rev. W. Vivian was appointed a member vice Rev. T. Truscott, deceased.

9.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Samuel Rowe K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, left for Madeira 5th August at which place he died on 28th of the same month.

"The whole of his official career was spent in the West African Colonies, and for their improvement and welfare and that of their inhabitants, whose interest he had sincerely at heart, he laboured with earnestness and zeal. *Vide* Secretary of State's Despatch.

"The fatal illness to which he succumbed was the result of long exposure to African climate, aggravated, I fear, by his devotion to duty, which impelled him to remain at his post long after he should have sought change and relaxation."

Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Maltby, commanding the troops, administered the Government from 6th August to 23rd October.

Captain J. S. Hay, C.M.G., was appointed Administrator of the Government of the West Africa Settlements, and arrived at Freetown 24th October. He was, on the disattachment of the West Africa Settlements by the erection of Sierra Leone and Gambia into distinct Colonies, appointed to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sierra Leone by Her Majesty on 29th November 1888.

Major J. J. Crooks as Deputy Governor administered temporarily the Government during Governor Hay's absence in December on a visit to the South-Eastern District of the Colony.

Secretariat and Treasury.

Mr. T. R. Griffith, the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, was absent from the Colony during the whole year administering the Government of the Gambia and on leave in England.

Major J. J. Crooks arrived from England 14th February, and was appointed Acting Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.

Major A. M. Festing, Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, left Freetown 21st January on a mission to Almami Samodu, King of the Sofas, and died at Sininkoroh 17th August on his return journey.

Captain A. N. Daniel, Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, retired from the service from 21st November 1888 with a gratuity.

Aborigines Department.

Mr. T. G. Lawson, Government interpreter, retired on pension at the end of the year "after 42 years' service of unimpeachable "loyalty and devotion to his Queen and country." *Vide* Sierra Leone "Royal Gazette."

Districts.

Mr. W. M. Huggins was confirmed in the appointment of manager of the 2nd Eastern and Quiah Districts.

Mr. R. E. Copland-Crawford, special service officer, arrived in September, and was appointed acting manager of the stations extending from Lavannah to Mannoh Salijah.

Mr. Mark Kerr, special service officer, arrived in November, and was appointed to the Treasury and Customs Department of the Sherbro District.

Several changes occurred in various departments consequent upon officers going on leave of absence.

10.—PENSIONS.

There has been a slight alteration in the pension list in 1888 effected by the death of Mr. J. M. Thomas, who was in receipt of a superannuation allowance of 41*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* since 1881. No new pensions sanctioned.

The total expenditure under the head of pensions during each of the last three years was :—

Year.	Paid in England.	Paid in the Colony.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - -	2,261	673	2,934
1887 - - -	1,832	693	2,525
1888 - - -	1,832	669	2,501

11.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

Mr. Thomas Scholes Buckley was recognised as Danish Consul from 15th February 1888.

Mr. J. A. M'Carthy was also recognised as Acting Liberian Consul during the absence of Mr. M. S. Boyle from 14th June 1888.

Mr. F. Burman became Consul for the Netherlands from 10th July 1888

Chevalier V. Bareste, Vice Consul for France, was promoted by his Government to the rank of Consul of the Second Class charged with the French Vice Consulate in this Colony.

12.—POPULATION.

There are no trustworthy means of ascertaining the exact population of the Colony in 1888, but it has been roughly estimated to be 75,000. The Census was last taken in 1881, and

the results then obtained were males 31,201, females 29,345; total 60,546, of whom the whites numbered only 217.

The occupations of the people were then distinguished as follows:—

Government employés - - -	679
Ministers of religion and members of legal and medical professions - -	159
Merchants, traders, hawkers, and mercantile clerks - - - -	12,700
Farmers, farm labourers, and market people - - - -	12,317
Grumettas, labourers, and house servants -	3,767
Fishermen and native seamen - -	1,964
Mechanics, butchers, bakers, &c. - -	2,611
Miscellaneous - - - -	4,111
School children - - - -	12,592
Infants - - - - -	3,683
No occupation - - - -	5,963
Total - - -	60,546

Since 1881 the area of the Colony has been extended, and consequently there has been an addition to the population.

The vital statistics furnished by the various district registrars show that the number of births and deaths registered in the last three years stood thus—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1886 - - - -	1,374	1,381
1887 - - - -	1,341	1,413
1888 - - - -	1,358	1,248

Much difficulty is experienced every year in obtaining the correct number of marriages solemnized. From the returns received from the various ministers of religion it has been computed that the total number of marriages in the year under report was 217.

SIERRA LEONE.

13.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the returns furnished by the different Christian denominations in the Colony the number of places of worship, and the number of persons professing Christianity in 1888, were—

Denomination.	Places of Worship.	Members.
Anglican - - - -	52	9,772
Roman Catholic - - -	3	530
Wesleyan - - - -	34	15,070
Free Church Methodist - -	14	2,530
Maroon Methodist - - -	1	300
African Methodist of America -	1	400
American Mendi Mission - -	3	170
Huntingdonian - - -	11	1,265
Baptist - - - -	2	340
Total - -	121	30,377

A large proportion of the population are Mohammedans.

14.—EDUCATION.

Since the introduction in 1882 of the system of annually inspecting the elementary schools of the Colony, much has been done for the encouragement and advancement of education. The subjects embraced reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, history, and grammar, to which, in the case of girls, sewing and domestic economy have been added.

After the annual examination the Government awards grants, based upon the recommendations of the inspector of schools as confirmed by the Board of Education, to the several schools that have attained the state of proficiency required under the Education Ordinance and the rules approved by the Board.

The number of schools examined, the number of pupils on the rolls, and the amount of grants awarded in the last three years were:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.			Grants.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
					£
1886 -	63	3,923	3,749	7,672	510
1887 -	61	4,141	4,023	8,164	682
1888 -	67	4,338	4,205	8,543	762

Besides the above-mentioned there were 22 other elementary schools with 1,262 scholars in 1888 whose proficiency did not come up to the standard laid down by the Government and were consequently not inspected.

There are six high schools in Freetown, three for boys and three for girls, having in 1888 a total of 329 boys and 272 girls.

The Fourah Bay College, which is in the vicinity of Freetown and belongs to the Church Missionary Society, by being affiliated to the University of Durham, offers to the aspiring youths of West Africa an excellent medium of obtaining degrees in arts, theology, science, &c., without the risk and expense of leaving the Colony.

15.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total for the last three years was as follows :—

Imports.

Year.	Value.	Duty.
	£	£
1886 - - - -	248,150	34,437
1887 - - - -	308,039	33,824
1888 - - - -	250,147	43,742

Exports.

Year.	Value.	Duty.
	£	£
1886 - - - -	525,352	5,118
1887 - - - -	333,517	5,160
1888 - - - -	339,043	138

———	Year.	Amount.
		£
Total Customs revenue - -	1886	48,220
	1887	47,211
	1888	51,229

The difference in the value of and duty on imports and exports may be attributed to Ordinance No. 14 of December 1887, which

SIERRA LEONE.

amended the import duties and levied an *ad valorem* duty of 5*l.* per cent., and also abolished the customs duties on exports.

16.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered for the last three years were—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1886 - - - -	635	218,947
1887 - - - -	633	174,915
1888 - - - -	702	255,330

17.—AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, &C.

There is abundance of land in the Colony favourable for agricultural purposes, &c., but, as I pointed out in my report for 1887, trade and barter have greater attraction for the community; the result is that agriculture is much neglected. There are, however, two or three gentlemen who have obtained grants of land from the Government for cultivation, and it is to be hoped that the experimental plantations they have made will induce others to follow in their wake.

No manufactory has been established in Sierra Leone.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners admitted in gaol during the last three years was as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Daily Average.
1886 - -	1,030	62	1,092	217
1887 - -	904	89	993	215
1888 - -	842	75	925*	246

The cost of the gaol establishment in 1888 was 3,595*l.*

* Including eight juveniles.

19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following is a return of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last three years :—

Year.	No. of Offences.	No. of Persons apprehended.	No. of Summary Convictions.	No. of Supreme Court Convictions.	Acquittals.
1886 - -	2,235	2,529	1,506	99	407*
1887 - -	1,752	1,956	1,050	106	291*
1888 - -	1,995	2,327	1,319	66	226*

There have been more crimes in 1888 than in 1887.

There were four cases of murder, which were visited with the extreme penalty of the law. The number of cases committed for trial at the Supreme Court is on the decrease, due to the recent introduction by the Chief Justice of inflicting short terms of imprisonment and flogging, which has had a deterrent effect on habitual criminals.

Considerable interest was manifested in the case of Regina *v.* W. T. G. Caulker, T. C. Caulker, Lahai, and five others for the murder of Gbanah Sengeh at Shaingay on 16th January 1887.

The whole of the Sierra Leone Bar were engaged in the case, which lasted fifteen weeks. The prosecution was conducted by the Honourable Mr. Lewis, a native barrister, and three other native barristers were assigned for the defence of various groups of the prisoners. The evidence showed that Gbanah Sengeh's death was caused by a party of warriors, of whom prisoner Lahai was one, sent by the Caulkers from Lavannah and elsewhere to Shaingay for the purpose of arresting certain persons.

The jury found the three prisoners named guilty of murder and they were sentenced to death; the remaining five were acquitted.

20.—HOSPITALS.

The total admissions to the various hospitals and the number of deaths for the last three years were as follows:—

Year.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1886 - - - -	657	148
1887 - - - -	565	102
1888 - - - -	701	103

Exclusive of cases that fell through for want of prosecution.

21.—LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The total admissions to the asylum, discharges cured, and deaths for the last three years were as follows :—

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Deaths.
1886 - - - -	14	1	11
1887 - - - -	20	4	7
1888 - - - -	14	5	9

22.—POST OFFICE.

The following statement shows the number and value of money orders issued and received during the last three years :—

Year.	Issued.		Received.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£
1886 - -	3,396	23,147	2,239	10,300
1887 - -	3,314	22,506	2,299	9,885
1888 - -	3,446	21,153	2,464	11,296

23.—SAVINGS BANK.

The Treasury Savings Bank was established on 1st January 1882, and is under the management of the Colonial Treasurer. Its operations from that date may be summarised as follows :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Due Depositors.
		£
1882 - - - -	44	663
1883 - - - -	76	1,168
1884 - - - -	124	2,799
1885 - - - -	251	4,947
1886 - - - -	386	8,304
1887 - - - -	501	9,330
1888 - - - -	697	11,929

The above figures clearly demonstrate that the bank is a growing institution and that its advantages are much appreciated by the people. Deposits are received from one shilling upwards, but no individual depositor is allowed to place more than 130*l.* to his credit within a single year, nor to have more than 500*l.*, exclusive of interest, in the bank. The rate of interest is 2½ per cent.

The bank is unquestionably a means for encouraging thrift among the inhabitants, and it is believed that it will maintain the importance which it has hitherto so successfully gained.

General Remarks.

The year under review has been fraught with many memorable occurrences. The various ports of the Colony were made free to the shipping of the world by the abolition of tonnage dues at the end of 1887.

A mission under the auspices of the Imperial Government was sent in January, with Major A. M. Festing as its Chief, to the Almami Samodu, King of the Sophas, commonly known as the West African Mahdi, having for its object the cultivation of friendship with that potentate and the development of the trade of the interior countries with this Colony.

Early in the year the Parcel Post Service was established between the Colony and the United Kingdom.

His Excellency Governor Sir S. Rowe, K.C.M.G., embarked from Freetown on 24th April for Monrovia, to exchange ratifications between Great Britain and Liberia for settling the long-pending boundary question. His Excellency returned to Freetown on the 30th of the same month. By the conclusion of this matter the claims of certain British subjects against Liberia for losses sustained since 1871 have been satisfactorily arranged between the two countries.

A proposal for the construction of a railway was laid before the Legislative Council.

Sierra Leone was constituted into a distinct Colony on 28th November 1888, and Her Majesty's Letters Patent to that effect were proclaimed in Freetown on the 22nd December.

The financial difficulties of the Colony have made it impossible to carry out many desirable public works which have long been in contemplation, such as a new gaol in Freetown, a new hospital at Sherbro, waterworks, &c.

The public health has on the whole been as satisfactory as that of any previous year. Some suggestions made by Dr. D. P. Ross, the Colonial surgeon, for remedying certain insanitary conditions of Freetown have been printed and circulated, and it is hoped that the inhabitants will faithfully carry them out, as by their so doing many evils which are a source of danger to the health of the community in general will be removed.

It has been felt that the economic plants of Sierra Leone deserve more than a passing consider[illegible] Many persons agree in the

SIERRA LEONE.

opinion that these plants if brought to notice will prove profitable to the commerce of the Colony.

The flora is exceptionally beautiful, and can hardly be surpassed by that of any other tropical country.

With regard to the geology of the Colony we are yet in comparative ignorance of its value even from a scientific point of view. But these are interesting questions which should engage the attention of the individual citizen, the hands of the Government being fully occupied with other matters of a more pressing nature at the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. J. CROOKS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
The Administrator,
Sierra Leone

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

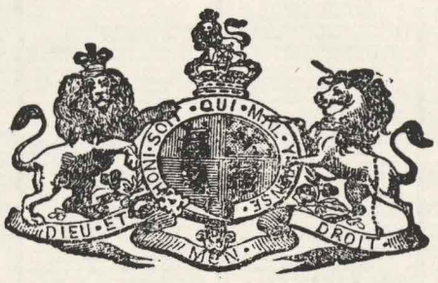
No. 100.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 59.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1890.



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1890.

[C.—5897.–30.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
49	Gibraltar	1888
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	,,
91	Grenada	,,
92	Bermuda	,,
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	,,
96	St. Lucia	,,
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–89
98	Turks and Caicos Islands	1889
99	Gambia	,,

No. 100.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 59.]

Administrator Sir J. F. DICKSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Penang,
April 22, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the annual report by the Colonial Secretary in anticipation of the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1889.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. DICKSON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT in anticipation of the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1889.

FINANCE.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1889 amounted to $4,410,620, or an increase of $551,711 over 1888; and the expenditure actually incurred during the year amounted to $3,816,194, giving a surplus on the year's transactions of $594,426.

2. The following comparative statement gives particulars of the principal items of the revenue and expenditure in 1888 and 1889:—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
——	1888.	1889.	——	1888.	1889.
	$	$		$	$
Land - - -	283,100	253,943	Salaries - - -	1,123,299	1,186,278
Licenses - - -	2,441,500	3,002,400	Contingencies and allowances - - -	36,954	40,088
Stamps - - -	355,057	361,121	Pensions - - -	103,359	106,482
Port and harbour dues -	116,244	118,249	Revenue services -	48,114	49,693
Postal - - -	123,720	130,333	Education - -	70,330	82,424
Fines and fees of Court, fees of office - -	90,298	98,875	Medical - - -	116,081	131,194
Reimbursements - -	134,919	130,312	Police - - -	74,125	87,494
Carried forward -	3,544,838	4,095,233	Carried forward -	1,572,262	1,683,653

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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	1888.	1889.		1888.	1889.
	$	$			$
Brought forward -	3,544,333	4,095,233	Brought forward -	1,572,262	1,683,653
Interest - - -	163,543	183,742	Gaols - - -	60,424	57,930
Miscellaneous - -	150,528	131,645	Marine Department -	75,161	61,713
			Postal - - -	55,162	84,058
			Transport - - -	71,038	79,370
			Interest - - -	70,827	46,757
			Miscellaneous services -	228,255	204,254
			Public works - -	1,070,202	1,255,572
			Military expenditure -	242,967	242,723
			Other votes - -	113,566	100,164
Total - -	3,858,909	4,410,620	Total - -	3,559,864	3,816,194

3. The following comparative statement gives the total revenue of the three Settlements, estimated and actual, for 1888 and 1889:—

	1888.		1889.	
	Estimated.	Actual.	Estimated.	Actual.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	2,168,110	2,156,673	2,413,485	2,437,257
Penang - - -	1,342,250	1,350,856	1,658,982	1,643,714
Malacca - -	301,840	351,380	320,682	329,649
Total - -	3,812,200	3,858,909	4,393,149	4,410,620

4. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January 1889 and 1890:—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
	1st January 1889.	1st January 1890.		1st January 1889.	1st January 1890.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current accounts or on fixed deposit with local banks - -	203,163	394,261	Balance in favour of the Crown Agents		1,901
Balance on Crown Agent's accounts and bills -	119,783	—	Debenture loan - -	160,000	103,233
Invested in Government of India loans - -	350,000	350,000	Deposits, &c. - -	322,143	490,196
Loans to Native States -	64,000	64,000	Expenditure in arrears -	18,428	14,000
Loans to Municipalities -	427,096	553,800		500,571	609,330
Investments - -	166,052	175,631			
Investments, gold - -	707,773	1,013,762			
Miscellaneous advances, &c. &c. - -	375,176	569,202	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	1,970,747	2,562,188
Singapore defences -	41,262	41,262			
Revenue in arrears -	17,013	9,600			
Total - -	2,471,318	3,171,518	Total - -	2,471,318	3,171,518

5. The course of exchange is shown in the following table:—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
On London:— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	3 1½	3 1¼	3 0⅞	3 1	3 1⅜	3 1⅜	3 1⅝	3 1½	3 2	3 2¼	3 3⅜	3 3½
Lowest -	3 0⅞	3 0⅞	3 0⅝	3 0⅜	3 1	3 1	3 1¼	3 1⅛	3 1¼	3 2	3 2¼	3 2

The highest rate of exchange during the year was in November, viz., 3*s.* 3⅝*d.*, and the lowest rate of exchange during the year was in April, viz., 3*s.* 0⅜*d.* The average rate for the year was 3*s.* 1⅝*d.*

Municipalities.

6. The following statement gives the actual revenue and expenditure, cash balances, and outstanding loans of the municipalities of the three Settlements respectively, for 1888 and 1889:—

Municipalities.	1888.	1889.
REVENUE:		
Singapore - - - -	$ 613,158	$ 664,684
Penang - - - -	299,867	330,946
Malacca - - - -	31,162	26,990
	944,187	1,022,620
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - - -	539,098	600,915
Penang - - - -	203,222	203,217
Malacca - - - -	27,529	23,626
	769,849	827,758
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	74,060	233,769
Penang - - - -	96,645	204,228
Malacca - - - -	3,632	6,364
	174,337	444,361
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore - - - -	228,000	400,000
Penang - - - -	159,500	250,000
Malacca - - - -	24,596	24,000
	412,096	674,000

The following table shows the amount of rates and taxes collected by Government outside the municipal areas and credited to the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

revenue of the Colony, and the amount expended by Government on roads and bridges in the same districts during the year :—

Amount of Rates and Taxes collected in 1889.			Amount expended by Government during 1889 on Roads and Bridges.		
	$	c.		$	c.
Singapore - -	2,881	35	Singapore - -	49,224	32
Penang - -	63,451	00	Penang and P.W. -	145,258	53
Malacca - -	9,930	00	Malacca - -	76,274	15

Legislation.

7. The most important measures passed during the year were Ordinance No. I. of 1889 to amend the law relating to societies, and Ordinance No. XVII. of 1889 to amend "The Municipal Ordinance, 1887."

Registry of Deeds.

8. The amount of fees collected in 1889 was $8,852.75. Of this $1,540 was for the registration of deeds dated before the 1st July 1887, and which might have been registered under Indian Act XVI. of 1839. The number of these deeds sent for registration must, from the nature of the case, steadily diminish and at last come to an end. This source of revenue is, therefore, abnormal and cannot be regarded as permanent. The balance of $7,312.75 was derived from deeds dated after the 1st July 1887, that is, from the current transactions of the Settlement. This part of last year's revenue may, therefore, be regarded as permanent.

Registry of Bills of Sale.

9. The amount of fees collected in 1889 was $1,648. This may be regarded as a permanent source of revenue.

Postal Department.

10. The returns show a considerable increase during 1889 in all classes of correspondence, despatched as well as received, with the exception of the item "Patterns," which shows a small falling off as compared with the previous year. In 1889 1,996,113 articles were received and 2,097,609 were despatched, as compared with 1,744,094 and 1,736,790 in the previous year. The numbers of letters received and despatched show increases of 252,019 and 360,819 respectively.

11. The total revenue of the department ($130,332.83) exceeded the amount collected in 1888 by $6,613, to which excess the sale of stamps contributed by an increase of $11,736.97 over the sales of the previous yea

12. The increase of business for the year under the heading of money orders and postal notes amounted altogether to a total of $52,481.03 for the three Settlements. Orders to the value of 4,728*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* were issued on the United Kingdom during the year, as compared with 3,743*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* in 1888. The transactions with the Native States amounted to $48,358.45, as compared with $36,711 in 1888; and those with India reached a sum of Rs. 273,720 as against Rs. 185,094, in 1888. The following is a summary of the transactions of the three Settlements:—

	1888.	1889.
	$ c.	$ c.
Singapore - - - -	110,809 09	158,444 68
Penang - - - -	75,271 68	72,447 62
Malacca - - - -	17,598 92	25,268 42
Total - -	203,679 69	256,160 72

The money order system during the year was extended to Mauritius, Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand.

13. The records show that 106,941 registered articles passed through this Department during the year, as compared with 91,346 in 1888.

14. The number of parcels transmitted by post was 16,478, showing an increase of 3,276 over the previous year.

Savings Bank.

15. The whole amount of money invested in the Colony's savings bank during 1889 was $99,810, the amount withdrawn $100,005, showing a nett decrease of $195 in the aggregate investments at the beginning of the year.

16. Particulars of the business transacted by the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca respectively are given in the following statement:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	373	105	26
Accounts closed - - -	269	131	30
Accounts open at the end of the year -	678	559	38
	$	$	$
Deposited, 1889 - - -	72,220	23,643	3,947
Repaid, 1889 - - - -	67,009	28,348	4,647
Balance due to depositors at close of 1889 - - - - -	93,927	28,104	5,294

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Education.

17. The number of schools inspected in all the Settlements was 182 in 1888, as compared with 181 in 1889, but the number of pupils presented for examination has risen from 6,346 in 1888 to 7,041 in 1889.

18. The number of pupils presented for examination from the aided schools for boys has risen from 1,817 in 1888 to 1,833 at the 1889 inspection; the average attendance was 2,430 as compared with 2,336 in the preceding 12 months.

19. The number of girls' schools inspected was 10, with an average attendance of 947 girls, as compared with 868 girls in the previous year.

20. The number of pupils in the Government English schools in average attendance was 907 during the year, as against 873 in the previous year. In all 629 pupils were presented for examination, as against 622 presented in 1888, and the passes obtained by these schools were 95 per cent. of those possible, as compared with 92 per cent. in the previous year.

21. Altogether 130 Government vernacular schools were inspected, as against 132 inspected during the year 1888, but the number of pupils presented for examination has risen from 3,206, presented in 1888, to 3,805 presented at the last inspection. The passes obtained by these schools is in the aggregate 69 per cent. of those possible, as against 78 per cent. in 1888.

22. The number of pupils in average enrolment and in "average attendance" at the Vernacular Schools in the Colony since 1886 is shown in the following table:—

	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
1886 - - - -	5,609	4,524
1887 - - - -	5,193	4,185
1888 - - - -	5,299	4,133
1889 - - - -	5,855	4,716

Population.

23. The Registrar-General reports that the results of birth registration during the past year show an improvement over those for 1888. The figures for 1889 show the highest birth-rate recorded in the Colony since the introduction of the Registration Ordinance.

24. The deaths registered in 1889 numbered 18,206 as against 16,157 in 1888, or an increase of 2,049, the highest rate of mortality having been recorded at Singapore. The greatest number of deaths occurred among persons between the ages of 25 and 35, the death-rate being 20·4 of the total number.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths registered in each Settlement during the past two years :—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Singapore - -	2,799	2,837	5,974	6,385
Dindings - -	134	84	101	104
Penang - - -	2,093	2,166	4,051	3,998
Province Wellesley -	2,597	3,014	3,070	3,571
Malacca - - -	3,439	3,417	2,961	4,148
Total -	11,062	11,518	16,157	18,206

25. In considering the ratio of births as compared with the population it should be borne in mind that the greater portion of the population are male immigrants from India and China, who do not intend to make the Colony their permanent place of residence, but to return to their own country when they have saved sufficient money to enable them to do so. The disparity between the sexes is consequently very great.

26. The total population of the Colony may now be estimated as at least 568,000.

Chinese Immigration.

27. There were 150,809 Chinese immigrants examined on board vessels and in landing depôts on their arrival at Singapore, as against 164,300 in 1888. In Singapore there has been a decrease of 1,112, and in Penang a decrease of 17,241. Of the whole number 102,429 landed in Singapore and 40,849 went on to Penang; the numbers in the previous year being 103,541 and 58,090 respectively. Of Singapore immigrants, 1,549 proceeded direct to Malacca, and 5,982 to other places.

28. In Singapore 11,962 and in Penang 9,251 were admitted into the licensed depôts. The number of immigrants whose passages were unpaid was less by 13,394 than the number in 1888.

29. The number of women who arrived in the Colony was 6,071, as against 6,674 in the preceding year. Of these, 3,837 landed in Singapore, 2,023 went on to Penang, and 211 to other places.

30. There were 32,666 contracts to labour executed in the Colony, as against 44,451 in 1888. Of these 10,673 were for labour in the Colony and the Protected Native States, and 21,993 for labour in other places.

Indian Immigration.

31. During the year 2,747 statute immigrants with 104 dependants arrived in the Colony for service in the Settlements

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

and native states, showing a decrease of 1,937 on the figures for the previous year; 15,285 immigrants not under agreements also arrived in the Colony, showing a decrease of 527 as compared with the number in 1888.

The following table gives the statistics of the Department since 1880:—

	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Immigrants under indenture -	1,191	879	1,452	1,450	1,539	1,642	2,748	4,736	4,684	2,747
Dependants - -	107	159	209	176	177	49	244	310	317	104
Free immigrants	3,755	5,769	8,276	8,979	14,365	19,819	17,316	12,156	15,812	15,285
Total arrivals -	5,053	6,807	9,937	10,605	16,081	21,510	20,308	17,202	20,813	18,136
Returned to India	—	5,269	5,947	9,041	10,749	13,417	18,105	12,596	13,190	14,099
Remained in the Colony - -	—	1,538	3,990	1,564	5,332	8,093	2,203	4,606	7,623	4,037

The years 1885 and 1886 were, however, exceptional years, as extraordinary facilities were afforded to immigrants by the competition that existed between two rival lines of steamers, so that in reality the past year compares not unfavourably as regards immigration with the two preceding years.

TRADE.

32. The following table gives the value of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1888 and 1889 respectively:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	108,112,271	110,746,590	87,143,305	88,683,134
Penang - - -	48,696,237	43,181,397	43,856,509	41,833,488
Malacca - -	2,462,142	2,271,074	3,208,621	2,702,659
Total -	159,270,650	156,199,061	134,208,435	133,219,281

It will be seen that while the trade of Singapore has increased the trade of Penang and Malacca have both declined.

These returns, however, must be considered as approximate only, as there are no Custom Houses in the Colony.

The grand total of imports into the whole country shows a total of $156,199,061, against $159,270,650 in 1888, or a nett decrease of $3,071,589. The grand total of exports is $133,219,281 against $134,208,435 in 1888, a net decrease of $989,154. This

is hardly satisfactory, as the previous year showed an increase of $29,814,954 over 1887. Singapore taken alone shows an increase, as will be seen above.

33. The following is a summary of the shipping and trade at Singapore during the years 1888 and 1889 respectively :—

	1888.	1889.	Increase.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Revenue collected - - -	76,114 89	77,822 06	1,707 17
Vessels arriving - - -	3,792 00	3,867 00	75 00
Vessels departing - - -	3,770 00	3,848 00	78 00

Imports.

	1888.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
Total value - -	108,112,271	110,746,590	2,634,319	—
Principally as follows :—				
From United Kingdom	18,646,742	19,485,103	838,361	—
„ Penang and Malacca - -	7,711,504	5,828,612	—	1,882,442
„ Foreign Countries	59,043,867	57,899,092	—	1,144,775

Exports.

	1888.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
Total value - -	87,143,305	88,683,134	1,539,829	—
Principally as follows :—				
United Kingdom -	19,526,721	18,960,303	—	566,418
Penang and Malacca -	2,879,468	2,127,661	—	751,807
Foreign Countries -	53,803,115	57,634,871	3,831,756	—

Native Craft.

	1888.	1889.	Increase.
Arrivals - - -	6,329	6,619	290
Departures - - -	6,291	6,563	272

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

Registry of Shipping.

	1888.	1889.	Decrease.
Vessels built - - - - -	110	87	23

34. The following are a few of the particulars of the Penang trade and shipping.

The value of the imports and exports of the principal articles of commerce is shown below :—

	1888.		1889.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$	$	$
Spices - - -	3,770,816	4,400,309	2,951,155	5,232,035
Sugar - - -	93,795	1,130,634	150,304	1,468,705
Tobacco, &c. - -	1,182,016	1,476,798	805,926	254,330
Tin - - -	11,867,282	14,476,934	11,321,102	11,908,820

It will be seen that the trade in tin has decreased, from a total of $26,344,216 in 1888 to a total of $23,229,922 in 1889.

35. The relative importance of shipping and commerce in 1888 and 1889 for Singapore and Penang is shown by the following returns :—

SHIPPING (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVE CRAFT).

Singapore.

1888 - 7,562 vessels measuring 5,796,429 tons.
1889 - 7,715 „ „ 6,113,977 „

Penang.

1888 - 5,174 vessels measuring 2,928,364 tons.
1889 - 5,852 „ „ 3,177,536 „

TRADE.

Singapore

	$
1888 - - - -	195,255,576
1889 - - - -	199,429,724

Penang.

	$
1888 - - - -	92,552,746
1889 - - - -	85,014,885

36. The exports to foreign countries, chiefly those to which Singapore forms a trading centre, again show an increase in value amounting to nearly four millions.

The trade with the States on the west coast of the peninsula is continually expanding, particularly the trade with Selangor and Sungei Ujong. The value of the exports from Singapore to those States during the year shows an increase of over half a million dollars.

The value of tin imported into Singapore from the West Malay Peninsula and Malacca shows a decrease of 1½ millions.

Lighthouses.

37. The lighthouses have been kept in good working order during the year, and arrangements have been made for the establishment of a lightship on Ajax Shoal. The improved apparatus for Fort Canning Light has arrived from England and will shortly be in place.

Public Health.

38. The health of the Straits Settlements has been good during the past year, there having been no prevalence of epidemic disease with the exception of a short but rather severe outbreak of cholera early in the year in Malacca. There was also a slight outbreak in the south of Province Wellesley.

Cases of small-pox occurred during the year in all the Settlements, but in less numbers than in 1888.

39. The total number of patients treated in the several hospitals of the Colony was 21,456, of whom 1,030 were Europeans and 20,426 natives.

The following table shows the total number of patients treated, and the deaths that occurred in hospital in each of the Settlements:—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore - - - -	9,411	915
Penang and the Dindings - -	5,856	500
Province Wellesley - -	2,261	324
Malacca - - - -	3,928	609

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The total number of deaths was 2,348, of which 51 occurred among Europeans and 2,297 among natives. The per-centage of deaths to total treated was for Europeans 4·95 and for natives 11·24, or a per-centage of 11·2 upon the whole number

40. The following table gives the work done and the results obtained in each of the hospitals of the Colony :—

Hospitals,	1888.				1889.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.
SINGAPORE.								
General Hospital, European	566	27	512	27	636	33	575	28
General Hospital, Native	2,166	93	2,033	40	2,252	57	2,156	39
Prison Hospital	626	73	531	22	717	25	655	37
Pauper do.	5,032	653	3,946	433	5,549	762	4,268	519
Lock do.	244	15	222	7	164	12	145	7
Leper do.	90	18	47	25	93	26	45	22
Lunatic Asylum	383	92	83	208	418	80	102	236
PENANG.								
General Hospital, European	181	4	163	14	239	15	221	3
General Hospital, Native	1,111	33	1,059	19	1,007	33	964	10
Prison Hospital	48	5	43	—	61	6	52	3
Pauper do.	2,224	348	1,473	403	3,744	381	2,927	436
Lock do.	163	2	161	—	45	3	35	7
Balik Pulau Hospital	435	24	358	53	573	50	465	58
Small-pox do.	30	8	21	1	8	1	7	—
Dindings do.	158	12	143	3	179	11	163	5
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.								
Butterworth Hospital	1,100	123	927	50	1,136	142	957	37
Sungei Bakap do.	525	53	431	41	558	51	458	49
Bukit Minyak do.	417	57	341	19	287	31	236	20
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerĕjak	273	68	65	140	280	100	20	160
MALACCA.								
General Hospital	376	5	365	6	454	19	429	6
Prison do.	39	2	35	2	23	—	23	—
Pauper do.	2,309	216	1,885	208	3,451	590	2,604	257
Lock do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

41. During the year 3,026 patients were treated at the Singapore Outdoor Dispensary, as compared with 2,522 in 1888.

Very good progress was made in the working of the Penang Dispensary, the number of patients that attended being 2,982, as against 2,238 in 1888.

42. The number of vaccinations in 1889 as compared with 1888 shows considerable progress, especially in Singapore, where the per-centage of successful cases to total vaccinated is the highes on record in the Straits Settlements, viz., 98·2.

43. The quarantine stations at Singapore and Penang were only once occupied during the year.

The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1888.

44. The Official Assignee reporting for the first time on the working of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1888, states as follows:—

"The total number of receiving orders made and proceeded with during the period from 3rd December 1888, the date when the Ordinance came in force, to the 31st December 1889, was:—

	No. of Proceedings.	No. of Debtors.
In Singapore - - -	34	46
In Penang - - - -	10	15
In Malacca - - - -	1	2
Total - -	45	63

which, compared with the bankruptcy proceedings in 1888, shows an increase in the three Settlements of one estate.

"Owing to the incompleteness of information afforded by bankruptcy records during previous years I am not in a position to report whether the per-centage of assets over liabilities has increased or fallen during the year 1889. It will be observed, however, that the per-centage of assets to liabilities is 29·5 per cent., and the total amount of the loss to creditors in the past year in the three Settlements is $918,252.39, as shown by the following table taken from the statements of affairs filed by debtors under the Ordinance. This loss, however, may be increased on realisation.

Settlement.	Estimated Assets.	Estimated Liabilities.	Nett estimated Loss to Creditors.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Singapore - -	155,255 57	725,038 31	569,782 74
Penang - - -	230,465 05	575,781 82	345,316 77
Malacca - - -	110 00	3,262 88	3,152 88
Total - -	385,830 62	1,304,083 01	918,252 39"

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

45. The number of Joint Stock Companies registered during the year was as follows:—

	Number.	Amount of Capital.
Singapore - - - -	8	1,784,100
Penang - - - -	2	509,000
Total - -	10	2,293,100

Meteorology.

46. The following statement shows the maximum, minimum, and mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Fahr. ° ′	Fahr. ° ′	Fahr. ° ′
Singapore - - - -	93 8	68 7	81 4
Penang - - - - -	95 0	70 0	82 2
Province Wellesley - - -	96 0	69 0	82 3
Malacca - - - -	92 0	73 0	81 6

Complete returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 34 stations in the Colony. The heaviest rainfall was in Penang.

The following table shows the total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours:—

Settlement.	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one Month.	Minimum Fall in one Month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Ins.	Ins.	Inches.
Singapore - -	84·13	Nov. - 18·24	March - 1·20	5·90
Penang - -	110·02	Dec. - 22·04	Feb. - 0·52	10·06
Province Wellesley.	94·01	Nov. - 18·75	Feb. - 1·42	4·70
Malacca - -	87·67	Dec. - 42·50	Feb. - 1·16	7·50
Dindings - -	93·05	Nov. - 13·99	March - 0·60	4·23

Police and Crime.

47. The police force at the end of 1889 consisted of the following officers and men:—

1 Inspector-General.
3 Superintendents.
3 Assistant Superintendents.
3 Chief Inspectors.
20 Inspectors.
66 European contingent of all ranks
229 Sikh „
1,770 Malay and Kling „

The Inspector-General of Police reports satisfactorily on the European and Sikh Contingents. He considers them to have well fulfilled the purposes for which they were raised. Of the Malay and Kling Contingent he reports unfavourably. The difficulty still exists, which has been noticed in former reports, in obtaining recruits for the Singapore force.

One hundred and fifty-five (155) men were dismissed from the police force during the year for police offences, and 79 cases were sent for trial before the Magistrates of Police.

A strong committee was appointed in July 1889 to inquire and report.

Their report has been received since the close of the year.

The number of cases reported to the police was 11,693, or 11 more than in 1888. The proportion discovered was over 70 per cent.

The number of cases in which arrests were made by the police during the year was 26,577, or 2,120 less than in the previous year.

There has been an actual decrease of serious crime. Of the most serious offences against person and property there is a reduction of 48 cases in 1889 when compared with 1888.

The secret societies have been engaged in closing up their accounts as they will be suppressed in 1890.

Judicial.

48. The following tables contain returns for 1888 and 1889 of the cases dealt with by the Supreme Court on the civil and

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

criminal sides, by the Courts of Requests, and by the police and marine magistrates :—

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.		1888. No. of Prisoners.				1889. No. of Prisoners.			
		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Culpable homicide -	convicted	1	5	3	9	1	3	1	5
	acquitted	3	4	2	9	1	1	1	3
Culpable homicide not amounting to murder -	convicted	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	4
	acquitted	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Grievous hurt by means of an instrument for cutting -	convicted	1	11	1	13	1	7	3	11
	acquitted	1	—	—	1	2	7	2	11
Unnatural offences -	convicted	2	—	—	2	—	3	—	3
	acquitted	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other offences against person	convicted	13	19	4	36	33	23	—	56
	acquitted	10	10	6	26	13	17	2	32
Other offences against property - - - -	convicted	23	12	—	35	13	14	—	27
	acquitted	8	7	—	15	5	39	—	44
Miscellaneous offences -	convicted	9	12	2	23	11	2	—	13
	acquitted	3	11	—	14	5	—	—	5
Attempt to murder - -	convicted	1	6	—	7	2	3	—	5
	acquitted	2	1	—	3	—	1	1	2
Robbery with violence -	convicted	22	14	—	36	1	17	—	18
	acquitted	5	5	—	10	4	3	1	8
Theft, housebreaking - -	convicted	37	21	4	62	76	23	2	101
	acquitted	4	12	2	18	6	24	3	33
Total - -	convicted	110	102	15	227	139	96	8	243
	acquitted	36	50	10	96	37	93	11	141
Grand Total - -		146	152	25	323	176	189	19	384

Supreme Court, Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1888.						Civil Actions, 1889.					
	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.
			$						$			
Singapore	586	1,703	1,155,675	551	1,070	668	668	2,088	2,091,890	707	1,236	813
Penang -	301	1,024	573,978	291	347	687	687	1,338	997,542	574	612	839
Malacca -	57	139	55,370	44	103	49	49	236	72,440	109	121	55
Total -	944	2,866	1,785,023	886	1,520	1,404	1,404	3,662	3,161,872	1,390	1,969	1,707

	Probate and Administration.				Debtor Summonses and Bankruptcy Cases.			
	1888.		1889.		1888.		1889.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Petitions	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Petitions.
		$		$				
Singapore - - -	166	1,203,169	145	1,558,106	46	21	7	38
Penang - - -	464	542,607	366	749,635	—	7	—	10
Malacca - - - -	117	45,600	107	227,019	2	1	—	1
	747	1,791,376	618	2,534,760	48	29	7	49

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1888.					1889.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
Singapore—										
Police - -	163	17,738	5,788	45	23,734	182	17,492	5,226	69	22,969
Marine - -	—	398	69	—	467	—	292	59	—	351
Penang—										
Police - -	94	12,323	5,480	155	18,052	135	14,298	5,754	73	20,260
Marine - -	—	104	37	—	141	—	73	23	—	96
Province Wellesley—										
Police - -	50	4,574	1,225	48	5,897	40	4,031	1,259	35	5,365
Malacca—										
Police - -	26	974	622	3	1,625	21	1,777	844	14	2,656
Total -	333	36,111	13,221	251	49,916	333	33,837	11,207	122	45,499

Courts of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to $50.)	1888.		1889.	
	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.
		$		$
Singapore - -	4,674	52,464	4,073	51,027
Penang - - -	3,747	58,266	3,786	55,045
Province Wellesley -	488	6,545	567	10,540
Malacca - - -	1,425	19,361	1,768	21,209
Total -	10,334	136,636	10,194	137,821

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Inquests.

49. The number of inquests held during the year 1889 was as follows:—

Singapore	189
Penang	99
Province Wellesley	87
Malacca	54
Dindings	7
Total	436

Prisons.

50. The daily average of criminal prisoners in the three Settlements was 1,285·68.

In the Singapore Criminal Prison, on the 1st January 1889, the number of prisoners was 857. During the year 4,281 were admitted and 4,262 discharged.

The total number remaining in the Singapore prison on the 31st December was 876, of whom 28 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners at Singapore (where all long-sentenced prisoners are confined) was 910 as against 917 in 1888.

There were 25 deaths in all during the year, one of these was a suicide. The health of the prisoners was good.

The conduct of the European prisoners was very good, and the conduct of the native prisoners was generally satisfactory, the number of offences bearing about the same proportion to the daily average as in the preceding year.

The more serious offences punished by caning numbered 93. There were five serious cases of assault on prison officers, and one escape of a long-sentenced prisoner. This prisoner was soon after re-captured.

In the Penang Criminal Prison 4,128 prisoners were committed during the year, of whom 21 were Europeans. The daily average was 345·94, as against 330·58 in 1888.

The state of health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the prison was good, there being only five deaths.

The conduct of the prisoners was satisfactory, although 769 prisoners were brought up for offences against prison rules, as compared with 525 in 1888, and the offences punished by caning numbered 107, as against 50 in the previous year. There was one escape. The prisoner was, however, re-captured the next day.

Three hundred and fourteen (314) prisoners were committed to Malacca Criminal Prison during the year, the daily average being 29·74. The health of the prisoners has been good, and their conduct was very satisfactory.

The Dindings.

51. There was an increase in the revenue for 1889 of $10,333.19, as against an increase of $2,631.69 in 1888. The land revenue collections amounted to $7,626.75.

It has been decided to move the headquarters from Pangkor island to Lumut on the mainland, where it is believed that the situation will prove healthy. A trial has been made of the new site, the District Officer having resided at Lumut for five months without any illness, while among the coolies, who are peculiarly liable to fever, there has been less than 1 per cent. on the sick list from all causes.

(Signed) J. F. DICKSON,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 8th April 1890.

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No. 108.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Reports Nos. 51 & 69.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1890.

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[C.—5897.-38.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
58	St. Helena	1888
59	Straits	"
60	Natal	"
61	Gambia	"
62	Barbados	"
63	Labuan	"
64	Grenada	"
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	"
71	British Honduras	"
72	British Guiana	"
73	Western Australia	"
74	Gold Coast	"
75	Sierra Leone	"
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	"
77	Hong Kong	"
78	Ceylon	"
79	Fiji	"
80	Lagos	"
81	Victoria	"
82	Leeward Islands	"
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turk's and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888-9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	"
107	Barbados	"

No. 108.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Reports Nos. 51 and 69.]

Sir W. ROBINSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

St. Ann's, Trinidad,
June 20, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book for the year 1889.

The Tobago returns are included in that compilation, and I forward herewith Mr. Commissioner Hay's Report upon them, so that in the remarks I now proceed to make the Returns in respect of Trinidad alone are referred to.

Taxes and Duties.

No new tax was imposed during the year, and the customs, excise and license duties were the same as in 1888.

Owing, however, to the large balance against the Planters at the close of 1888, and of the proposed introduction during 1889 of 500 immigrants in excess of the number imported in the previous year, it became necessary to increase the duties leviable for immigration purposes on produce shipped from the Colony. By the Ordinance 22 of 1888 the duty on sugar was accordingly fixed at 6*s.* 6*d.* the hogshead; on molasses at 2*s.* 6*d.* the puncheon; on rum at 4*s.* 4*d.* the puncheon, and on cocoa and coffee at 1*s.* 9*d.* the bag; these rates representing increases over those charged in 1888 of 2*s.* a hogshead in the case of sugar; 1*s.* a puncheon in the case of molasses; 1*s.* 4*d.* a puncheon in the case of rum, and 6*d.* a bag in the case of cocoa and coffee.

In consequence of short crops on the one hand, and the introduction of a still larger number of immigrants than was originally intended, or provided for in the estimates, on the other, the balance due by the planters to the Public Treasury on account of immigration at the close of the year 1889, notwithstanding the increased rates, was 12,274*l.*

In his Annual Report for 1889 the Registrar-General estimates the population of the Island on the 31st December at 196,000.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Taking therefore as a basis for calculation the following items of revenue as constituting the taxation :—

	£
Import duties (less drawbacks) - -	162,608
Rum duty - - - -	96,431
Licenses - - - -	26,151
House and land tax - - -	30,902
Legacy duty - - - -	746
Giving a total of - - -	316,838

The taxation per head of the population would appear to be 1*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, local rates levied in the boroughs not being included.

Fees.

To this Return have been added the fees chargeable under the District Courts Ordinance, 1888, and the Real Property, Agricultural Contracts, and Births and Deaths Registration Ordinances of 1889.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1889 amounted to 453,274*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure to 463,221*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, the payments having thus exceeded the receipts by 9,946*l.* 19*s.*

As compared with the figures for 1888, the revenue showed an apparent falling off of 27,248*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; but of this amount 22,709*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* represents export duties on produce levied for immigration purposes which, while treated as revenue in 1888, in 1889 were carried to the credit of a Suspense Account and are not included in the above figures. The actual difference between the receipts of the two years was therefore 4,538*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* in favour of 1888.

The principal deficits occurred under the following heads:—

	£
Rum duty - - - -	7,067
Land sales - - - -	12,809
Legacy duty - - - -	2,337
Railway - - - - -	3,925

Besides being less than the receipts of the previous year by the amounts stated above, the revenue under these four heads was less than that of which they were estimated to yield by the following sums :—

	£
Rum duty - - - -	3,686
Land sales - - -	2,294
Legacy Duty - - - -	254
Railway - - -	11,946

It is of course impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the receipts from Legacy duty and no explanation of the deficit under that head is necessary, but with regard to the other items the heads of the three departments concerned attribute the falling off mainly to the scarcity of money resulting from depression in trade and short crops.

There are other causes, however, to which this reduction may be traced. In the case of the Excise, the consumption of rum would appear to be on the decrease, but whether this is entirely due to the straightened circumstances of the class who consume it or to the efforts of the temperance movement I am unable to say. From a return furnished to me by the Receiver-General it appears that the consumption of rum per head of population for the last five years has been as follows:—

1885	- - - -	1·70 gallons.
1886	- - - -	1·62 „
1887	- - - -	1·64 „
1888	- - - -	1·64 „
1889	- - - -	1·49 „

During the course of the past year it was moreover discovered that, taking advantage of an insufficient supervision, the retail spirit dealers, or at least some of them, were ignoring the provisions of the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1880, which requires that the strength of rum shall not be reduced by added water below 25 degrees under proof, and cases were detected in which the spirit had been reduced to a strength of 38·4.

A portion of the deficit is no doubt attributable to this cause, but the provisions of the law are now being rigidly enforced.

With regard to the item "Land Sales" it must be explained that the receipts in 1889 were in reality only 2,802*l.* less than those of 1888, and that the striking difference noticeable at first sight is due to a re-arrangement in the form of the estimates for 1889 of the several heads of service constituting "Land Sales" and "Land Revenue."

The falling off in the receipts on account of the sale of Crown lands is principally owing to a marked disinclination on the part of capitalists to enter into investments connected with land.

The temporary collapse of the cocoa-contract system, to which I shall allude later, has doubtless contributed to this result, while it is possible that some intending purchasers may also have held back pending the completion of the surveys for the proposed light railways.

Under the head of "Railway" a considerable deficit will be noticed not only in the actual but in the estimated receipts. This is explained by a revision of the tariff having been decided upon, which was estimated to yield some 13,000*l.* or 14,000*l.* a year, but which simply had the effect of driving the traffic from the railway on to the main roads which run parallel with it.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The following items on the revenue account, it is gratifying to report, show an appreciable increase on the previous year:—

	£
Export duty on asphalt - - -	6,233
Licenses - - - - -	3,753

Under the heading "Land Revenue" there is an apparent increase of 12,163*l.*, but this, as previously stated, is owing to a re-adjustment of accounts, and is not real, being neutralised by the deficit of 12,809*l.* under "Land Sales."

The total receipts last year from export duty and royalty on asphalt amounted to 26,757*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* as against 18,381*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in 1888.

Turning now to the expenditure, which was less than that of 1888 by 124*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* and 4,624*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the estimate for the year, the principal increases will be found under the following heads:—

	£
Police - - - - -	2,087
Hospitals - - - - -	4,106
Gaols - - - - -	5,039
Immigration - - - -	4,544
Military - - - - -	1,562
Fruit trade - - - -	2,750

The excess under the head of "Police" may be accounted for by the introduction of 20 horses from Prince Edward Island for the use of the force; by an increase in the strength of the band; and by the rent of stations, formerly voted under the heading "Rent" in the annual estimates, being charged to the departmental vote.

With regard to other items, the increase under the head of "Hospitals" was unavoidable; the expenditure appearing as on account of "Gaols" includes a payment of 4,500*l.* towards the building of two reformatories; the immigration disbursements covered the cost of the introduction of a considerably larger number of coolies than were received in the year previous; and the addition to the strength of the volunteer force explains the increased expenditure on the item "Military."

The sum of 2,750*l.* for "Fruit Trade" represents the subsidy paid during the year to the contract steamers plying to New York and round the island, touching at Tobago.

With the exception of the above specified increases there was little difference between the expenditure of 1888 and 1889, and the apparently large items appearing in the comparative statement for the two years will be found to be the result only of a re-classification of the expenditure under different heads of service.

Public Debt.

The amount of the debt on the 31st December 1889, was 542,420*l.*, 2,000*l.* bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent., 215,020*l.* at 5 per cent., and the balance (325,400*l.*) at 4 per cent.

Of this liability 534,420*l.* represents the amount still owing on the loans raised for the construction of the railway; 2,000*l.* is the balance of an amount raised on loan for the borough council of San Fernando for the construction of the San Fernando tramroad, guaranteed by the Government under the Ordinance 10 of 1864, and 6,000*l.* is the amount not yet appropriated from general revenue for investment to meet repayment of the loan of 12,000*l.* for the improvement of the Port-of-Spain Water Supply, authorised by the Ordinance 3 of 1883.

The net receipts of the railway for 1889 are stated by the director of public works in his annual report to represent 2·39 per cent. on the capital account of the undertaking as against 2·80 per cent. for 1888. The falling off is attributable to short crops, the railway having carried 4,739 tons of sugar and 600 tons of cocoa less than it did in the previous year, to a reduction of the tariff which took effect from the 1st January 1889, and to the generally curtailed expenditure to which I have already referred, and which in the case of the railway was proved by a falling off in the passenger traffic of 43,000 as compared with the number carried in 1888.

No new loan was contracted in 1889, but a series of surveys in connexion with a scheme for light railways into the interior, and across the island, were commenced during the year and have not yet been completed.

When the most practicable and desirable routes have been determined upon and surveyed, the Legislative Council will be asked to consider whether a further loan of 200,000*l.* or thereabouts should not be raised for the construction of the lines. If these routes should be adopted, it is to be hoped and reasonably expected that the construction of railways and tramways will open up to settlers districts of the island at present inaccessible, and have the further effect of reducing expenditure on the upkeep of many of the costly natural soil roads in the interior.

In December last I again recommended to your Lordship that a loan of 100,000*l.* should be raised for metalling roads and otherwise improving the means of internal communication in the island, as well as for providing facilities for the shipment of produce by the coasting steamers to which a subsidy has lately been granted. My recommendation was supported by a resolution unanimously adopted by the Finance Committee when considering the estimates for the current year, and your Lordship's approval of the proposal, conveyed to me in January last, has been received with general satisfaction.

It is proposed that a considerable proportion of the loan, on which interest at the rate of four per cent. will be paid, should be

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

taken up on accoumt of the Savings Bank, all the funds of that institution which are at present placed at a lower rate of interest being realised for reinvestment in the Government stock.

The appropriation of the loan is to be determined by a road board, presided over by the Governor, with the Director of Public Works as Vice-President, and composed of three unofficial members of Council and several other influential gentlemen, intimately acquainted with the island and its wants.

That the distribution of the funds at their command will be jealously watched and, in many cases, adversely criticised, there can be little question, but I am confident that the money will be expended to the best advantage, and only after the fullest and most careful consideration. The aim of the Board will be to place within the reach of all either railway, road, or water communication.

Legislation.

I subjoin a list of the titles of the Ordinances, 24 in number, passed during the year—

No. 1.—To make further provision for the protection of women and girls, the suppression of brothels, and other purposes.

No. 2.—To further amend the Medical Ordinance, 1887.

No. 3.—To amend the Friendly Societies Ordinance, 1888.

No. 4.—To prohibit the digging, winning, or removing of asphalt from Crown lands without license.

No. 5.—To define the mode of ascertaining the strength of rum and other spirits, &c., and to provide for the warehousing of the same.

No. 6.—Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance for 1888.

No. 7.—To provide for the holding by the Puisne Judges of sittings of the Supreme Court in Tobago.

No. 8.—To simplify the title to and the dealing with estates in land, to provide for the indefeasibility of titles, to regulate the sale of mortgaged properties and to provide a system of crop advances to registered proprietors.

No. 9.—Respecting agricultural contracts.

No. 10.—To enable the judges of the Supreme Court to make rules for regulating the qualifications of Jurors in Tobago.

No. 11.—To amend the 111th section of "the Customs Ordinance, 1880," so far as relates to the coasting trade between the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

No. 12.—To amend the law relating to the registration of births and deaths.

No. 13.—To regulate hackney carriages in the town of Arima.

No. 14.—To provide for expenses incurred in the trial and detention of Colonial prisoners and criminal lunatics by order of British courts exercising jurisdiction out of Her Majesty's Dominions.

No. 15.—To supplement the provisions of the Imperial Passenger Acts with respect to shipwrecked passengers.

No. 16.—To amend "the District Courts Ordinance, 1888."

No. 17.—To amend "the Immigrants' Marriage and Divorce Ordinance, 1881."

No. 18.—To amend the law as to the custody of infants.

No. 19.—To amend "the Companies Ordinance, 1869."

No. 20.—To amend "the Public Land Charges Ordinance, 1879."

No. 21.—To consolidate and amend the law relating to Savings Banks.

No. 22.—For regulating the business of pawnbrokers.

No. 23.—Appropriation Ordinance for 1890.

No. 24.—For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1890.

In the majority of cases the object of these Ordinances is sufficiently explained by their titles, but there are a few calling for some remarks.

Nos. 8, 9, 12, and 22 are the most important.

No. 8. The first, "To simplify the title to and the dealing with estates in land, to provide for the indefeasibility of titles, to regulate the sale of mortgaged properties and to provide a system of crop advances to registered proprietors" is in great measure a re-enactment, with certain necessary modifications, of the ordinance 14 of 1870, "for the declaration of titles to land, and to facilitate its transfer," the provisions of which had never been brought into operation It enacts that the certificate of title under the hand and seal of the Registrar-General shall be an indefeasible title to the land therein described, and it contains, as the latter part of its title sets out, provisions for the realisation of mortgage securities under the order of the court, it having been contended, and no doubt with reason, that the powers given to mortgagees under the law of 1870 were so large that if harshly exercised they opened the door to injustice. It further provides for a system of advances against crops to proprietors whose lands had been brought under the operation of the Ordinance.

It was expected that the simplification of the system of dealings in land proposed by the enactment, taken in conjunction with the greatly reduced cost, would have been generally acceptable, but it appears from a return prepared by the Registrar-General at the end of March that from the date of the passing of the Ordinance, vizt.,—the 1st of May; up to that time only 31 applications for registration of titles had been received, and that the provisions of the law with regard to crop advances had not, so far, been resorted to at all.

No. 9. In my report on the Blue Book for 1888 I stated that an attempt had in that year been made to legislate on the subject of agricultural contracts, but that owing to differences of opinion on the subject the draft Ordinance submitted to the council had been withdrawn.

It is unnecessary to refer again to the difficulties which arose in connexion with the cocoa-contract system and to the causes which led up to them.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Opinions were divided as to the necessity, or even advisability, of legislating on the subject, it being contended by those opposed to such action that the paralysis of the system was of a temporary character attributable to force of circumstances and not to any inherent defect in it. The fact however remained that for a time at least the system under which perhaps nine-tenths of the cocoa estates in the Island had been brought into cultivation and which for many years had been in satisfactory operation, was almost entirely suspended, causing considerable loss to both owner and contractor, especially to the latter, and jeopardising the future of the industry.

In these circumstances I submitted the question for your instructions, and your Lordship having expressed the opinion that legislation was "expedient, if not absolutely necessary," the Ordinance drafted by Mr. Lewis, the chairman of the committee which I appointed in 1888 to inquire into and report upon the cocoa-contract system, was reintroduced into the Council and passed with a few modifications.

One of the questions out of which the difficulties arose was the nature and legality of these contracts. This is settled by section 3 of the Ordinance which enacts that they shall not be deemed to be contracts of service, but shall be good and valid.

The Ordinance provides a simple, expeditious and inexpensive means for the settlement of disputes between owners and contractors, its main object being to restore the mutual confidence that had until recently existed between them. In this direction its success is earnestly to be desired.

No. 12. In his report for 1888 the Registrar-General again referred to the inadequacy of the provisions of the Ordinance No. 13 of 1847 for ensuring a reliable registration of births and deaths, and that officer undertook, at my request, the preparation of the present Ordinance, No. 12 of 1889, which is largely taken from the Imperial Act of 1874, and which by giving effect to the principal of medical supervision, secures an accurate and reliable record of the causes of death.

The Ordinance provides that in cases where a medical practitioner does not attend during illness, a certificate may be obtained on the dead body being viewed, and having regard to the scattered nature of the settlement of the island and the consequent impossibility at times of the attendance of a medical man being obtained, it authorises, in such a contingency, the issue by the warden, assistant warden, police or ward officer, schoolmaster or other official of the certificate necessary for the burial of the deceased.

No. 22. Ordinance No. 22 of 1889, which with a few slight alterations is a replica of the English Pawnbrokers Act of 1872, was enacted on the urgent representations of the head of the police. It was stated that gross frauds were committed by persons who carried on a pawnbroking business without any legal restrictions, and that such a law would greatly assist in the discovery of lost and stolen property and the detection of offenders.

As compared with the English Act the principal difference is that the amount of profit to be allowed on special transactions is limited, this provision having been inserted for the protection of the ignorant classes.

The profits allowed to pawnbrokers are double those authorised in England, but this was deemed fair in view of rates of interest obtainable on all loans here.

Of the Ordinances passed during 1889 Nos. 7, 14, and 15 were disallowed by Her Majesty.

Political Franchise.

At the end of March 1889, I received the decision of Her Majesty's Government on the report of the Royal Commission appointed in 1887 to consider and report as to an elective franchise and the division of the Colony into electoral districts.

The decision arrived at was that the proposal to alter the constitution of the Council by making it partly elective had not been shown to have been based on any serious failure of the existing legislative system or to be likely to conduce to the public good, while there had been no strong and general expression of public opinion in its favour. On that finding Her Majesty could not be advised to make any change in the mode of appointment of unofficial members of the Legislative Council, but is was decided that those members should in future hold their seats for a limited period and that they should as far as possible be selected with a view to their representing the different districts of the Island.

Additional instructions giving effect to this decision and limiting to five years the duration of the appointment of unofficial members were signed by Her Majesty on the 8th June last. Honourable members who, with a view of facilitating the action of Government in any change that it might have been deemed necessary to make in the constitution of the Council, had on the 1st April, with commendable loyalty, tendered the resignation of their seats, were assigned to represent the several districts of the Colony as proposed.

Your Lordship's decision in this matter was received by the majority with satisfaction, and I am convinced that the executive may rely upon a continuance of that loyal co-operation which it has for so many years received from the unofficial side of the Council in the good government of the Island and the advancement of its welfare.

Notwithstanding the movement for reform in the constitution of the Island, it cannot be said that much interest is taken in representative institutions, for in the Borough of Port-of-Spain with 724 registered electors only 110 voted at the last general election, in San Fernando with 113 electors, 67 voted, and in the new Borough of Arima, of the 138 registered electors, 96 exercised their privilege.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The want of interest in municipal matters apparent in the case of Port-of-Spain is much to be deplored, for there are several matters, some indeed of great importance, which require early and careful attention.

Councils and Assemblies.

On the 8th June last in accordance with the decision of Her Majesty's Government to centralise the Imperial troops in the West Indies, at Jamaica and St. Lucia, the small detachment which had for years been stationed here was withdrawn, and the seat of the officer commanding the troops in the Executive Council was consequently vacated.

Under additional royal instructions the officer discharging the duties of Auditor-General will be appointed to the vacant seat.

During the year the Legislative Council sustained a great loss in the death of the senior unofficial member, Mr. Frederick Warner, C.M.G. Mr. Warner, a barrister by profession, was a native of the Colony, and had sat in Council for an uninterrupted period of 28 years. He was a gentleman of the highest character and ability, and his death was universally deplored.

His seat in the Legislature has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. Gordon Gordon.

Civil Establishment.

I was absent from the Colony on leave from the 19th May to the 5th December, during which time Mr. Fowler administered the Government; Mr. Chantrell acted as Colonial Secretary; Mr. Hamilton as Auditor-General; and Mr. Horsford as Receiver-General.

In the higher branches of the service few permanent changes of importance occurred during the year.

The enactment of the Real Property Ordinance necessitated the appointment of an Examiner of Titles in connection with the Registrar-General's Department, and the office, as well as that of law officer for Tobago, was conferred upon Mr. Garcia, the Solicitor-General.

During the year the service lost a scientific, zealous, and hard working member in the late Mr. J. McCarthy, professor of chemistry at the Queen's Royal College and Government analyst, who died on the 19th September. He had identified himself with every movement calculated to advance the prosperity of the island which is indebted to him for many services not strictly connected with his official position.

While this report is being written I am informed by your Lordship that Mr. Patrick Carmody is appointed to be Mr. McCarthy's successor.

In August Captain E. Fortescue, late inspector of prisons in British Guiana, assumed the command of the police force and fire brigade in succession to Captain Baker who was transferred to

the appointment vacated by Captain Fortescue. In April Mr. L. M. Fraser was removed from the office of stipendiary justice of the peace for the eastern district of the county of St. George and inspector of prisons to that of Superintendent of prisons. Mr. Harley, the former Superintendent, succeeded Mr. Fraser.

Pensions.

The pension list was reduced in 1889 by the death of the following persons receiving the amounts specified below:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Dr. T. Murray, senr. - - -	500	0	0
D. Hughes - - -	56	13	4
Bridget Cook - - -	8	15	0
G. Mason - - - -	12	13	4
Mr. M. Sorzano - - -	166	13	4
Anne Meyear - - -	13	6	0
J. H. Selman - - -	48	18	1½

On the other hand the following new pensions were granted:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
F. Gardner - - - -	78	5	0
E. Confor - - -	25	0	0
Reverend L. Guiacomo - -	68	4	0
„ W. B. Laurie - -	240	2	8
Mr. J. Leotaud - - -	85	0	0
Mr. G. F. Bowen - - -	180	0	0
S. Thoulouis - - -	18	0	0
Reverend J. Montague - -	78	2	6

The payments on account of police superannuation allowances exceed those of 1888 by 69*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*, and gratuities to the amount of 413*l.* 10*s.* were awarded to retiring officers and widows of deceased public servants in indigent circumstances.

Foreign Consuls.

General L. Duarte Level was succeeded in April in the Venezuelan Consulate by General J. R. Arcia, who in his turn was superseded in December by General V. Perez Leon. These appointments were not officially recognised, diplomatic relations with Venezuela being suspended, nor was the application for their recognition made through the proper channel (the Colombian Minister in London) but in March of the present year General Perez Leon's Exequatur received Her Majesty's signature.

The Honourable C. Leotaud, who was provisionally recognised as Consular Agent for France in December 1888, was confirmed in the position by the issue of the Royal Exequatur on the 26th January 1889.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Population.

The births registered in 1889 numbered 6,805, and the deaths 5,799, the natural increase of the population in the year having been 1,009. 3,252 Indian immigrants were introduced from India and 668 returned to that country. In his report for the year the Registrar-General estimates the population of the island at the end of 1889 at 196,172, or 111·08 per square mile. Of this population at least one-third is Indian. 766 marriages were registered during the year, or six less than in the previous year.

The birth, death, and marriage rate calculated on the above figures was 34·68, 29·56 and 3·95 respectively per 1,000.

The falling off in the number of marriages is much to be regretted, as also is the excessive proportion borne by illegitimate births (72·8) to the total birth-rate of the Colony. This is a matter calling for the serious attention of the several religious bodies in Trinidad.

Education.

In the Government primary schools the number of scholars on the roll and in average attendance during 1889 was 7,156; 4,348 being boys and 2,808 girls. In aided private schools the number was 10,181; 5,310 boys and 4,871 girls. In other private schools supported by voluntary contributions there were 95 boys and 38 girls, total 133. The total number of scholars therefore during the past year attending schools of which the education department has knowledge was 17,470. In addition to these there are of course several private schools of which there are no records, attended chiefly by the children of the upper classes. These figures, compared with those for 1888, show an increase of 1,501.

The expenditure on account of the schools above classified, exclusive of the salaries of the staff of the Education Department, amounted in 1889 to 23,165*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, 961*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* having been provided by voluntary contributions, and the school fees collected repaying 4,035*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

The orphanages and industrial schools at Belmont and Tacarigua are also included in this return; the former in connection with the Roman Catholic Church, with 144 children, 71 boys and 73 girls, and the latter in connection with the Church of England, with 108 children, 52 boys and 56 girls. In respect of each child admitted to these institutions under the Industrial Schools Ordinance of 1876 an annual allowance of 10*l.* is paid from the Treasury. On the 31st December last the charges against the Government under this head were on account of 78 children in the Roman Catholic School and 58 in the Protestant.

In the Royal College and the College of the Immaculate Conception, which is affiliated to it, there were respectively 70 and 209 students in 1889.

The question of education was the principal topic of discussion during the year, and an Ordinance amending and consolidating

the laws on the subject is about to be submitted to the Legislative Council.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions that before any changes of importance were made in the Colony's educational code the draft measure to effect them should be submitted for approval, the report of the Committee (composed of the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Dr. de Verteuil, and His Honour Mr. Justice Lumb) which had been appointed by me to suggest the improvements alleged to be required in the system then existing, and also a draft education ordinance and rules prepared by Mr. Justice Lumb were forwarded for your consideration in July.

The papers were submitted to me when in England and also to Sir Patrick Keenan, and your Lordship's decision was based upon the opinion that we separately arrived at, namely, that if properly administered the Ordinance No. 6 of 1870 would have been sufficient to meet the educational wants of the island.

Under the Ordinances Nos. 6 of 1870 and 13 of 1875, there were two different sets of provisions with regard to aid to assisted schools. The scheme provided by the old Ordinance, the more liberal of the two, is preferred by your Lordship. The law about to be introduced, which has been prepared by the Law Officers of the Crown and which embodies the amendments proposed by your Lordship, repeals the law of 1875.

The new law will re-enact with modifications and additions the principal provisions of the Ordinance of 1870 with regard to primary education. It will largely increase the powers of the Board of Education, which will practically exercise complete control over the elementary schools. Under its provisions the Board will have considerable spending power and will have to exercise very great discretion. Its power will be practically absolute and its guidance should necessarily be active, faithful, and straightforward. Its principal duties will be to establish, maintain, or possibly discontinue Government schools, to sanction the establishment of and to grant or discontinue aid from public funds to assisted schools. The Board will control, regulate, and direct the local management of at least the Government schools, and the denominational assisted schools will be subject to vigilant supervision and inspection and will also be liable to have assistance withdrawn from them or to be closed if they do not fulfil the educational requirements laid down by the law. It is proposed that liberal grants should be made in aid of building not only school-houses but teachers' residences. Aid will also be given for the remuneration of teachers, including fixed salaries, according to the class of certificate, and attendance grants and bonuses according to the proficiency of the scholars and the general character and tone of the school. The payment of this state aid will be made on conditions which require, among other things, the acceptance of a conscience clause and the admission of *all* children without distinction of religion, race, nationality, or language.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

As stated by Sir Charles Dilke in his able and instructive work, the "Problems of Greater Britain," the educational history of Trinidad is exceedingly interesting. It would be quite impossible in a Colony such as this, comprising so many different elements in its population, to adopt any system which would give satisfaction to all. The great feature in the new Ordinance, which is necessarily a compromise, is, however, liberality to religious effort by the grant from the public purse of three fourths of the school expenses to all denominations who may establish a school in any village or district where there does not already exist, or is not likely otherwise to exist, sufficient school accommodation. The object of the new Ordinance is to make the assisted schools available for *all* children. On the other hand, it is not intended to provide all denominations or any denomination with a school of its *own* without regard to the school accommodation already existing.

It will thus be seen that the duties of the new Education Board will be of an excessively difficult and delicate nature, and that their first care will be not to permit a waste of public money by allowing a number of small rival schools to be started.

It is admitted on all sides that before any great improvement can be hoped for, the status and qualifications of teachers must be radically improved. The Ordinance, therefore, not only provides for a fixed salary according to a teacher's certificate a bonus according to the proficiency of scholars and the general character and tone of the school, a grant-in-aid for a teacher's residence, but it makes provision for the establishment of training schools and for the recognition of denominational schools for such purposes. All teachers must, in future, hold certificates; and four years will be allowed from the date of the passage of the Ordinance in which teachers now engaged must obtain certificates.

The Ordinance, I am glad to say, also extends gratuitous education to the children of indentured immigrants, and provides for the establishment of special Government schools for the education of Indian children. It is strange, but nevertheless true, that this provision has not met with unqualified approval.

The Indian population amounts upon close to 70,000, quite one-third or more than one-third of the entire community, and it is an element which cannot be overlooked, which is powerful in the present and will be far more powerful in the future.

The education of these people and of their children who have done and are doing such good service in the Colony in developing its resources is a duty which the Government and their employers owe to them, and from which there is no escape. I have satisfaction in calling attention to late Education Returns, viz., those of 1888 and 1889, which prove that more Coolie children are under instruction now than during any previous years. In addition to the many children who are being educated under the auspices of the Canadian Mission there have quite recently been established five Indian schools where more than 250 children are being educated in English and Hindustani.

It has always appeared to me that, putting aside private effort, these children have been sadly neglected. They come to us strangers and, as a rule, utterly ignorant of our language and customs. They are employed entirely in agriculture; their children are born on the estates. Every effort, therefore, whether they are still indentured or have become free, should, in my opinion be made to retain them in the Colony and to convert them into useful settlers and good citizens.

Their position is so unique as to warrant special treatment, and I trust that the salutary provisions of the Education Ordinance will be ungrudgingly extended to them in the future. I believe that the Indian is capable of high mental training. A few years ought to show a marked effect on the rising generation, as in Trinidad they can learn modern ideas comparatively unfettered by caste and other pernicious influences. If this view is, as I believe it to be, correct, the educated Hindoo should be a very prominent factor in the future history of this Island.

Under the new system the expenditure on account of education will, no doubt, be considerably increased. It will of course be the duty of the Legislative Council to keep that expenditure within reasonable limits, and I am sure that any new taxation which it will be necessary to impose will be cheerfully submitted to. For the present year I estimate an increase of 2,500*l.*, and for next year about 5,000*l.*, for which provision will have to be made.

The establishment of reformatory schools so long required and anxiously looked forward to was at length practically taken in hand in 1889. The building of that of the Roman Catholics is completed and the school is about to be licensed under the Ordinance, which has been submitted for Her Majesty's confirmation.

The building of the Church of England school is well advanced, and will also be licensed within the present year.

The Roman Catholic school will be placed under the direction of a staff of sisters of a religious order, the Good Shepherd, skilled in the management of such institutions, who have already arrived in the Island, but the Church of England, so far as I am aware, have not yet completed their arrangements for the superintendence of their school.

The establishment of these institutions is a matter for general satisfaction, and it is to be hoped that they will result in a decrease of juvenile depravity and crime.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports in 1889 was 2,093,932*l.*, and the duty received thereon 167,911*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* In 1888 the figures were :—value 1,943,789*l.*, and duty 168,277*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

Increases occur in the following items :—

	1889.	1888.
	£	£
Bread - - - - -	1,883	1,362
Corn - - - - - -	4,088	2,863
Flour - - - - - -	19,187	18,554
Matches - - - - -	2,195	922
Oilmeal - - - - -	2,114	1,602
Rice - - - - - -	23,404	21,030
Soap - - - - - -	2,571	2,398
Tea - - - - - -	1,120	792
Tobacco, manufactured - - -	2,832	2,189

On the other hand, the following articles show a decrease :—

	1889.	1888.
	£	£
Butter - - - - -	2,559	3,507
Hardware - - - - -	1,900	2,341
Lard - - - - - -	1,352	1,458
Leather, manufactured - - -	1,458	1,965
Malt liquor - - - - -	4,999	6,001
Oil, kerosine - - - -	14,652	15,339
„ cocoanut - - - -	1,350	1,568
„ olive - - - - -	1,392	2,207
Opium - - - - -	2,593	2,755
Sugar - - - - -	2,085	2,305
Tobacco, unmanufactured - - -	24,902	25,623
Textile manufactures - - -	8,622	10,536
Wine in wood under 22 per cent. - -	3,771	4,593

From the above comparative statements it will be observed that while food stuffs or necessities show an increase; articles which are more in the nature of luxuries exhibit a decrease, a fact affording additional evidence of the scarcity of money to which I alluded in the earlier part of this report.

The large increase in the duty collected on matches would appear to show that the local factory, to the establishment of which I referred in my last report, and which flourished for a time, has failed to retain home support.

In commenting on the year's receipts the Collector of Customs expresses the opinion, in which I agree, that "bearing in mind "the considerable decreases in most of the other principal sources "of the Colony's income the result of the year's collection of "import duties is satisfactory."

The value of the exports was 2,308,832*l.*, of which 1,527,438*l.* represents the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. In 1888 the figures were 2,132,761*l.* total exports, and 1,557,710*l.* the value of local products.

In the case of the principal staples there was a decline, as will be seen from the subjoined table :—

	1889.	1888.
Sugar - - - -	112,368,762 lbs.	122,491,220 lbs.
Rum - - - -	20,015 galls.	97,974 galls.
Cocoa - - - -	15,335,228 lbs.	21,352,312 lbs.
Cocoanuts - - - -	11,495,571 No.	12,366,592 No.

The export of the following articles show an increase :—

	1889.	1888.
Asphalt—raw - - -	66,565 tons.	40,791 tons.
„ —epurée - - -	11,559 „	11,235 „
Bitters - - - -	43,692 galls.	42,830 galls.
Coffee - - - -	29,774 lbs.	4,480 lbs.
Molasses - - - -	2,234,724 gallons.	1,948,569 gallons

The variation in the course of trade during the past two years will be seen from the subjoined tables, in which only the principal countries dealt with are included :—

Imports.

Country.	1889.	1888.
	Value. £	Value. £
United Kingdom - - -	763,891	794,427
British East Indies - -	89,865	81,963

Country.	1889.	1888.
	Value. £	Value. £
British North America - - - -	62,960	60,459
British Guiana - - - -	15,587	9,832
British West Indies - - - -	39,437	60,292
United States - - - -	382,520	349,863
France - - - - -	88,876	103,723
Germany - - - - -	29,210	31,230
Spain - - - -	15,359	16,559
Portugal - - -	3,815	6,640
Venezuela - - - -	585,585	416,157

Exports.

Country.	1889.	1888.
	Value. £	Value. £
United Kingdom - - - -	972,473	861,634
British North America - - -	14,705	15,140
British West Indies - - - -	36,842	34,118
United States - - - -	763,426	668,518
France - - - - -	119,610	234,200
Germany - - - - -	25,540	31,843
Venezuela - - - - -	337,666	244,890

The trade with Venezuela is still crippled by the hostile policy of that country towards England and her Colonies, but it is to be hoped that under the new Government that has just taken office in that Republic, the injury which both Venezuela and Trinidad sustain by the continuance of the 30 per cent. differential duty imposed by Venezuela will be recognised, and that on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Great Britain (which with a view to the amicable settlement of more than one question it is to be trusted will shortly take place) the removal of the obnoxious impost will be one of the first measures adopted by the neighbouring Government.

Shipping.

1,869 sailing vessels entered at the several ports of this island during 1889, and their tonnage was 141,036 tons.

Of these, 494 were British and 1,375 foreign, the tonnage represented by them respectively being 48,126 and 92,910 tons.

The number of steamers entered in 1889 was 424, and their tonnage 460,338 tons.

British steamers numbered 253 with a tonnage of 302,314 tons, and foreign steamers 171 with a tonnage of 158,024 tons.

Comparing the figures for 1889 with those for 1888, there is a decrease of 94 in the number of sailing vessels entered, but an increase in the tonnage of 3,293 tons.

There was a considerable falling off in British shipping in 1889, the figures for 1888 having been 665 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 59,463 tons, and for last year 494 vessels of a tonnage of 48,126 tons.

In the number of steamers also entered in 1889 there was a decline of 17 as compared with the entries in 1888, the difference in tonnage between the two years being 36,171 tons in favour of 1888.

In the case of British steamers there were 7 vessels less than in 1888, and the aggregate tonnage of the steam shipping entered was less by 36,254 tons than that in the previous year.

The number of sailing vessels cleared from Trinidad in 1889 was 1,833 and their tonnage 140,530 tons.

In 1888 there were 1,966 vessels representing 138,800 tons, or a falling off of 133 vessels, but an increase of 1,730 tons.

Of the clearances 489 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 47,641 tons were British, and the remainder, or 1,344 vessels representing 92,889 tons, were foreign.

As in the case of sailing vessels entered there was a marked diminution of British vessels cleared, the figures being for 1888 655 vessels or 55,481 tons, and for 1889, 489 vessels or 47,641 tons, making a difference of 166 vessels representing 7,840 tons in favour of 1888.

The number of steamers cleared from Trinidad during the past year was 423, and their tonnage 456,874 tons.

In 1888 441 steamers left with 498,331 tons, or 18 steamers and 41,457 tons more than in 1889.

The number of British steamers was 249, and their tonnage 295,240 tons, and of foreign 174 with a tonnage of 161,634 tons.

In 1888, the number of British steamers cleared was 261 and their tonnage 340,773 tons, and of foreign 180, their tonnage being 157,558 tons.

The total tonnage of all descriptions entered and cleared during the year was 1,198,778 tons, or 63,605 tons less than in 1888.

The falling off is probably temporary, and may be in a measure attributable to short crops. I am confident, however, that the record of 1890 will more than equal that of any previous year.

To the hitherto regular lines of steamers in communication with Trinidad there are to be four additions during the current

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

year :—One between the West India Islands and St. John's, New Brunswick ; one between New York, Curaçao, La Guayra and Port-of-Spain ; one from the Clyde, proceeding afterwards to British Guiana and Barbados; and the last, the Hamburg-American Company, whose steamers proceed to the South American ports after calling at Trinidad.

The construction of landing quays and a coaling station at Chaguaramas Bay, a sheltered spot in the Gulf admirably suited for the purpose, on plans prepared by Sir John Coode, is now under the consideration of gentlemen of very considerable means, and if carried out, will it is believed, offer greater facilities than yet exist in these latitudes for the coaling of steamers, and thus increase the shipping entering the gulf.

A further scheme for the construction of a dock basin in the harbour of Port-of-Spain, having for its object an increase of wharf space and the provision of greater facilities for the landing and shipment of goods, is also engaging the consideration of the Government.

Gaols and Prisoners.

This return, I regret to say, exhibits an increase over that of the previous year. The figures were :—

	1889.	1888.
Total number of committals - - -	3,923	3,462
Made up as under :—		
For debt - - - - -	24	28
For safe custody or want of security -	918	1,026
For penal imprisonment - - -	2,981	2,408

It is thus seen that while there was a decrease in the number of commitments for debt and safe custody there was an increase in the number of criminal commitments amounting to nearly 24 per cent. on the figures for 1888.

Of the prisoners committed 3,205 were men, 668 women and 50 juveniles, *i.e.*, 334 men and 130 women more, and 3 juveniles less than in 1888.

The committals can be classified as follows :—

For a first offence - - - -	—
„ second offence - - -	590
„ third offence - - -	343
„ fourth offence, or more - -	663

Of the juvenile offenders 29 had had previous convictions.

There were nine deaths during the year, one by suicide, five from natural causes, and three by judicial execution.

26 prisoners succeeded in effecting escapes during the year, of whom 22 were recaptured.

The total cost of the prison for the year was 8,591*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*, and the value of the prisoners' labour was assessed at 6,004*l.* 19*s.* The average number in prison having been 483, the gross cost to the Island of each prisoner was 11¾*d.*, and the net cost 2½*d.* per diem.

At the end of 1888 the police stations at Princes Town, Cedros, Mayaro, Toco and Blanchisseuse were licensed as district prisons at which male prisoners committed for 30 days and under might be detained and employed under the direction of the magistrates.

On the removal of the Imperial troops in 1889, the St. James' barracks were on certain conditions handed over to the Colonial Government, and one of the buildings is now being adapted to the purposes of a female prison, an establishment that has too long been required.

Savings Banks and Friendly Societies.

A comparison of the figures representing the transactions of the savings bank in 1889 with those for the previous year is very satisfactory. I subjoin the figures:—

Number of depositors in 1889 - -	5,606
„ „ 1888 - -	5,350
	£
Amount of deposits in 1889 - -	107,314
„ „ 1888 - -	94,302
Amount of withdrawals in 1889 -	103,791
„ „ 1888 -	84,328
Total amount of credit of depositors in 1889 - - - -	129,059
Total amount of credit of depositors in 1888 - - - -	122,753

The large increase in the amount of the withdrawals (19,463*l.*) is no doubt due to the reduced circulation of money elsewhere referred to, but the figures as a whole show that the bank is increasing its business and becoming more and more appreciated.

The expenditure on account of the bank amounted to 3,822*l.*, and the interest accrued on invested funds to 3,798*l.*, so that the institution was almost self-supporting in the year under review.

The difference between the assets and liabilities on the 31st December 1889 was 14,730*l.*, being the amount of uninvested deposits kept in hand to meet any unforeseen calls upon the bank.

A return of the friendly societies registered in the Island appears for the first time in the Blue Book for 1889.

I regard the establishment of such associations with satisfaction. They indicate a growing sense among the people of the benefits of thrift and co-operation and should in every way be encouraged.

TRINIDAD. AND TOBAGO.

A strict an independent audit of the accounts of the various societies is provided for by legislative enactment.

Hospitals.

During the year there were no less than 13,739 cases treated in the several hospitals in the Island, exclusive of the numbers in the lunatic asylum and leper asylum.

The deaths numbered 1,297, or 9·44 per cent. on the cases treated.

In the lunatic asylum there were 441 inmates under treatment and 26 were discharged cured.

In the leper asylum the number of cases treated was 216, and the number of deaths 16.

Notwithstanding the increased accommodation provided at the principal hospital in Port-of-Spain, and the establishment of district hospitals, six in number, which it was expected would tend to relieve the overcrowding at the Port-of-Spain and San Fernando Hospitals by affording early relief to poor people in the county districts, who in the absence of such institutions would probably either neglect to seek timely and proper relief, or in their wanderings on their way to the larger hospitals aggravate their complaints, the numbers of inmates in those two are largely in excess of their accommodation.

From the mortality rate quoted above, which cannot be considered a high one, it is evident that a large proportion of the cases admitted are not such as really require hospital treatment, but are rather the outcome of vagrant lives, to which, on being relieved, they generally return.

Speaking with 16 years' experience of the West Indies I am in a position to assert that real poverty, as it is seen in European countries, is almost unknown in these Islands. In the Colony now under my Government it is considered necessary year after year to introduce large numbers of indentured immigrants at great cost, not because the resident labouring population is altogether inadequate, but because the people, who in the days of slavery were accustomed to have all their wants provided for, are satisfied that it is not absolutely necessary to work in order to live. It is a curious fact, and may have its origin in the same cause, that a considerable portion of the negro population look upon agricultural labour as degrading. They have not, perhaps, been educated up to that point which would enable them to agree with George Washington that "Agriculture is the most healthful, the "most useful, and the most noble employment of man." It is to be hoped that they may do so before the land passes entirely into the occupation of an alien race. There can be little doubt that the East Indian is gradually elbowing his way into the most fertile districts of Trinidad, and that from this people, numbering already one-third of the entire population, the chief supply of labour will have to be looked for in the future.

This is one of the considerations which in my opinion renders it so imperative to Government to take a far more active and energetic interest in these people than has hitherto been the case.

In the meantime many persons prefer a life of vagrancy to that of regular employment which they could always find on the large sugar estates, and they are quite careless in this respect because they know that hospitals are maintained at the public expense into which they will be admitted whenever they fall sick or stand in need of temporary medical treatment.

The effects of this parental and humane Government are not, I regret to say, confined to the lower classes, they permeate every grade of society. The public treasury, for example, in addition to numberless other charges, is required to maintain and extend, without contribution from those directly interested in them, costly roads for the transport of produce from and supplies to holdings in land paying the insignificant tax of 1*s.* per acre per annum, and numberless and loud are the complaints which are received if the Government does not keep them in constant and perfect repair. That the equalisation of the land tax in 1879 was a great fiscal reform I readily admit, but that the present amount of the tax, which in the first year of the change involved a loss of revenue of some 10,000*l.*, is adequate, I cannot agree.

In concluding my remarks on this return, I would express a hope that before the close of the present year it may be possible to initiate some regular system of poor relief, of the necessity for which there can be no question.

General Remarks.

The union of Trinidad and Tobago, under the Royal Order in Council of the 17th November 1888, was effected on the 1st January 1889. As a result of the annexation a new era of financial prosperity already appears to have dawned on the sister Island.

Her debt to Granada was paid off during the year, and it was found possible to expend out of the general revenue a sum of 2,035*l.* to build a new wharf and jetty at Scarborough.

The year closed with a surplus of assets over liabilities of 809*l.*

Relations between employers and employed in the Island have, of late, been somewhat strained, but I do not anticipate any permanent difficulties. The chief source of misunderstanding would appear to have arisen in connection with the Metayer system of carrying on the cultivation of sugar plantations. Although it may be difficult to indicate the precise cause, it is certain that the system has not of late been working with the satisfactory results that characterised it formerly. Important questions, involving wide considerations as to the rights of property, have been raised in regard to the reciprocal relations borne by the *de facto* proprietor and Metayer to each other. These and other matters

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

connected with the system will, however, I trust, be elucidated by the commission which has been appointed by the direction of your Lordship to investigate and report upon the subject.

The year 1889 is marked by the establishment of the first direct line of steamers (subsidized) between this Island and New York. These steamers run in connexion with a coasting service which includes Tobago.

The object of initiating this line is to create a fruit trade with New York similar to that which exists between Jamaica and the States and which has been attended with such magnificent results. Trinidad is eminently suited for the development of a great fruit industry, and I am sanguine that the exertions of the Government in this direction, now that cultivators are furnished with a rapid transit for their produce to the American markets, will ultimately be rewarded with success.

It is true that the export of fruit at present is small and would hardly appear to justify the establishment of a special line of steamers for its conveyance, but I am convinced that until the Government showed that they were in earnest in promoting the industry by providing the means of transporting produce to a market, agriculturists would have hesitated, if not altogether refused, to engage in fruit culture. Nor is it to be expected that they would embark in an enterprise, whatever golden promises may have been held out to them, the advantages to be derived from which, having no reasonable facilities for realising their crops, were so problematical.

One result of the competition between the subsidized and other lines has been to reduce freights, and as this reduction is principally on food stuffs the public at large and no particular class is benefited. A trade, moreover, is springing up in decorative plants. Fairly large quantities have already been shipped in these direct steamers, and so ready a sale is found for them in New York that I venture to think it will not be very long before they occupy a prominent position among our minor exports to countries in the North.

In connexion with the agricultural interests of the Colony I created in April 1889 a Central Agricultural Board. The Board holds its meetings in Port-of-Spain at least once in each month and is under the presidency of the Governor. The Sub-Intendant of Crown lands, the Wardens of the several ward unions, and the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens are *ex officio* members of the Board. Other members are representatives from the District Agricultural Boards and gentlemen of influence and position in the Island appointed from time to time by the Governor. The *personnel* of the Board, therefore, it will be seen, is very comprehensive. Its object is to direct the operations of the district boards above referred to, established by me in 1886, and to assist generally in the agricultural advancement of the Colony. The Board, I am glad to be able to report, is doing useful work and considerable interest is attached to its proceedings. An "Agri-

cultural Record" is published monthly under the auspices of the Board, and it will, I think, bear favourable comparison with any similar publication in any of Her Majesty's Colonies.

The revenue derived from the Pitch Lake continues to furnish gratifying proof of the wisdom of the action of the Legislative Council in 1887 in accepting the offer of the present concessionaires. While for the 20 years previous to the granting of the monopoly the aggregate revenue yielded by the lake amounted only to 24,645*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, or on an average about 1,230*l.* per annum, the receipts on account of pitch for the year under review, being the second year of the concession, reached the handsome total of 26,807*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* These figures speak for themselves.

The Island was happily free from epidemic disease during the year, and the death-rate, estimated at 29·56 per 1,000, was less by ·92 than that of 1888.

In concluding this report I can only reiterate the opinion that I have so often expressed in previous reports that under a careful administration a bright and prosperous future is assured for this singularly well-favoured island.

The elasticity of her many resources has been fully tested in the past and a judicious expenditure of her revenue is all that is required to develop and extend her capabilities in the future.

The fertile Crown lands of the interior of the Island are being steadily alienated. It is only necessary to make these lands accessable to ensure their being eagerly taken up. The appropriation of the loan referred to in the early part of this report will, I am confident, be followed by a marked impetus in this direction.

In the extension of cultivation I hope to see some lands devoted to other products than the staples sugar and cocoa. Under present conditions depression in the markets of those commodities is reflected on the whole community. I have already referred to the fruit industry which is taking root, and this will be supplemented shortly, I hope, by a more extended cultivation of coffee and tobacco, for the production of which the Island seems to be well adapted. The soil of Siparia, a district in the south of the Island, seems to be peculiarly suited for growing tobacco. About 8,000 lbs. already are shipped annually from this part of the Island to Port-of-Spain for local consumption. In order to stimulate the tobacco industry a Government plantation has been established at Siparia. It is superintended by an expert from Cuba. During 1889 a crop was taken from five acres, but the season was not a favourable one for harvesting, owing to wet weather. The crop is not yet sufficiently cured to enable an exact estimate to be made of its value, but the quality, so far as it is possible to judge, promises to be good. A larger area is being prepared for the next crop. Under the fostering care of the Government I anticipate that the cultivation of tobacco will be considerably extended within the next few years. I have also endeavoured to impress upon capitalists that there are great possibilities in connexion with a fibre industry.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

It is no easy matter, however, to induce men to regard such enterprises with a favourable eye, or to convince them of their remunerativeness, who, for generations past, have been accustomed to sacrifice everything to the twin Molochs sugar and cocoa.

I am happy to be able to report, however, that there is every prospect of the crops of the two great staples for 1890 being unusally bountiful, so that merchant, proprietor, planter, and peasant may ecxept to realise in a full measure in the year that is passing, at any rate, the benefits to be derived from a fruitful harvest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TOBAGO.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

Government Office, Tobago,
March 22, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for insertion in the Blue Book of the Colony, the Blue Book Returns of this Island for the year 1889, with my Report regarding them.

Taxation.

The land and house tax was at the rate of 12½ per cent. on the annual rent or value of the lands and houses as against 10 per cent. in 1888.

Towards the close of the year a local law relating to the levying of duties on goods landed on, or shipped from, the public wharf came into force.

The following were the alterations in taxation consequent on the annexation of Tobago to Trinidad:—

1. The shipping dues were abolished.
2. The Trinidad Customs tariff—a lower one generally than that of Tobago—was adopted.
3. The Trinidad Excise laws took the place of those formerly existing in the Island, thus increasing the duty on rum from 4*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per proof gallon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year was 8,809*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, showing a decrease in the receipts of 1,680*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* as compared with 1888. This decrease is attributable to the abolition of shipping dues and the adoption of the Trinidad Customs tariff. It should be stated, however, that the revenue, comparatively small as it may appear, exceeded the estimate by 209*l.*

The revenue was made up as follows:—Customs duties 3,836*l.* 5*s.*, excise duties on rum 1,247*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, land and house taxes 2,003*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, licenses 807*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and other receipts 914*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*

The expenditure proper to the year was 7,777*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, an exceptionally low one, but a further sum of 2,646*l.* was spent for special purposes, namely, 2,035*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* for the building of a new jetty and the extension of the wharf at Scarborough, and 610*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* for the final instalment with interest thereon, due on account of a loan from the colony of Grenada. The total disbursements for

the year were thus brought up to 10,423*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The island was in a position to incur this extraordinary expenditure, having commenced the year with surplus assets. There still remained a credit balance of 809*l.* at the end of the year.

The subjoined table gives the revenue and expenditure for the last five years—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1885 - - - -	10,825	12,031
1886 - - - -	8,813	9,529
1887 - - - -	9,386	6,994
1888 - - - -	10,489	8,155
1889 - - - -	8,809	10,423

Public Debt.

Tobago may be said to have practically no public debt. Advances were made from time to time during the year by the Trinidad Government, amounting in the aggregate to 652*l.*, on account of the new Scarborough jetty; these have been repaid with interest at the rate of 4*l.* per cent. per annum.

In like manner the Trinidad Government is now advancing moneys for the repair of public buildings generally, it has not yet been definitely settled when, and in what manner, these sums shall be refunded, but they will doubtless assume the form of a small public debt, as it would be manifestly unfair to lay the entire burden on the taxpayers of the present day.

Public Works.

So little has been done in late years in the direction of repairs to public buildings and roads that it has become necessary to almost re-construct some of the former and to remake many of the latter. The principal work of importance of the year was the building of a new jetty and the extension of the wharf at Scarborough. The following were the items of expenditure under the head of public works:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Scarborough wharf and jetty -	2,035	0	5
Building of foot-bridge over Blacksmith's River - - -	69	8	7
Repairs to Government House -	18	13	7
General repairs to buildings -	94	13	9
Repairs to public roads - -	805	15	5
	3,023	11	9

Financial Board.

The qualifications which entitle a person to vote in any year at the election of members of the Board are that he—

1. Is a British subject by birth or naturalization; and
2. Has attained the age of 21 years; and
3. Is under no legal incapacity; and
4. Is on the 1st day of January in such year, and has, during the whole of the preceding six calendar months, been a resident occupier of a house in Tobago; and
5. Has during the preceding year paid direct taxes or rates, or direct taxes and rates, in Tobago to the amount of not less than ten shillings; and
6. Has paid all taxes and rates due and payable by him in Tobago up to the 1st day of January in such year; and
7. Has not within the six calendar months immediately preceding the first day of January in such year received any relief from public funds.

The qualifications for a member of the Financial Board are that he—

1. Is a British subject by birth or naturalization;
2. Has attained the age of twenty-one years;
3. Does not hold any public office under the Crown or Government of the Colony;
4. Is a resident occupier of a house in Tobago;
5. Either—
   (*a*) possesses a clear yearly income of 200*l.* either in his own right or in the right of his wife; or
   (*b*) pays annually direct taxes of the amount of not less than 10*l.*
6. Is qualified to register as a voter at the election of members of the Board.

The first general election of members should have been held before the 1st April, but it was found impracticable to do so, and by Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 6th April 1889, the period for holding the election was extended to the 30th June. The election took place on the 20th May, when the following gentlemen where elected:—Mr. Wm. McCall, Mr. Augustus Briggs, and the Rev. Canon E. A. Turpin. There were six candidates for the three seats. One hundred and sixty-four persons registered as voters, of which number 35 were adjudged disqualified by the revising barrister.

The functions of the Financial Board have, under the Trinidad and Tobago Order in Council of the 17th November 1888, been restricted to questions relating to taxation, the revenue and expenditure of the Island, and to local matters generally.

Six Regulations (the local enactments being so called) were passed during the year, their titles were:—

No. 1. The Appropriation Regulation, 1889.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 2. To provide for the appointment of rural and special constables.

No. 3. For the suppression of yaws.

No. 4. To impose certain duties on goods landed on or shipped from the public wharf and jetty of Scarborough.

No. 5. To impose a tax on lands and houses.

No. 6. The Appropriation Regulation, 1890.

Of these, Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 call for remark.

No. 2 provides for the annual appointment of rural constables and, when necessary, for the appointment of special constables. The rural constables receive no fixed salary, but are paid at a rate not exceeding 3*s.* a day when employed; they, as well as the special constables, have the powers of an ordinary police constable; their duties are to render assistance (when required) to the existent small body of local police.

No. 3 has for its object the diminution, if not the extirpation, of the disease of yaws. To this end it is made compulsory for all persons suffering to seek medical treatment for the disease. Medical advice and medicines are furnished gratuitously by the Government. Parents and guardians are held responsible for the treatment of children up to 15 years of age.

No. 4. The passing of this measure will make a small addition to the revenue. The tariff of dues imposed is a moderate one and a fair equivalent is offered by the Government to the public in the shape of improved wharf accommodation and the free use of two cranes.

No. 5 changes the system of land and house taxation. Formerly there was a quinquennial valuation of the lands and houses by assessors appointed by the Governor. The rate of tax was annually fixed by the Governor in Council; it varied from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* in the pound of the annual rent or value as returned by the assessors. Under Regulation 5 the quinquennial system still remains, but the stipendiary justices of the peace are charged with the duties of assessing the value of the houses in their respective districts, the land paying a fixed sum of 5*d.* per acre. The tax on houses now is 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound of the annual rent or value. Taxes in default are increased at the rate of 25 per centum.

Civil Establishment.

The local changes brought about by the annexation were as follows:—

Mr. L. G. Hay, who had for the previous nine months been acting as Administrator of the Government, was appointed to be Commissioner of Tobago.

Mr. H. H. Sealy, formerly confidential clerk, was appointed to be Auditor and Sub-Registrar.

Mr. J. A. P. Bowhill was appointed to be Commissioner's clerk and clerk of the Financial Board.

Mr. G. B. Irvine was appointed to be Deputy Marshal.

There were other changes, but they were merely nominal, certain Tobago officers having to adopt Trinidad titles in connexion with their duties under Trinidad laws.

Pensions.

The pension list, which aggregated 392*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, contains nine names. Three pensions were added to the list in the course of the year.

Population.

The population of the Island was, at the end of 1889, estimated at 20,626.

There were 682 births, 87 marriages, and 437 deaths during the year.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the Tobago imports was 32,569*l.* and that of exports 39,526*l.* The average annual value for the five previous years was 27,375*l.* and 34,150*l.* for imports and exports respectively. The trade between this island and Trinidad has, since the annexation, been treated as coastwise trade, otherwise the imports and exports for 1889 would have been at higher figures.

Shipping.

In 1888 185 vessels were shown to have entered; in 1889 only 74 are so shown, but these numbers do not bear comparison as vessels coming from Trinidad, which were formerly included in the list, are now regarded as coasting vessels.

Agriculture.

The island benefited during the year by the visits of two persons who were eminently qualified to throw light on questions agricultural and horticultural. The first was Mr. J. H. Hart, the Government Botanist of Trinidad, the second, Baron A. Eggers, an eminent Danish scientist, whose object was to study the flora of the island. Mr. Hart recorded his experience in a very full and interesting report, the concluding remarks of which ran as follows: "The general appearance of the Island cannot but "produce a favourable impression on any one having even a "primary knowledge of tropical agriculture. The land is good "and varied in character, thus capable of producing many "promising articles of export. In comparison with others, and "even with some of the larger islands, there are as good oppor-"tunities for profitable investment as in any of them, which fact "only needs to become known to be largely taken advantage of." Mr. Hart further strongly advocates the cultivation of the fibrous plant botanically known as Furcræa Cubensis, haw., of which

there are a great number growing wild all over the Island. Its local name is "silk grass," and Mr. Hart ranks it as a fibre producer among the first of its class. In this view Baron Eggers also coincided, he recognising the plant as a most valuable fibre. Towards the close of the year steps were taken by those interested in the matter to start a company for the purpose of growing fibrous plants and manufacturing fibre therefrom. This company is now in process of formation, and it is to be hoped that a new and flourishing industry will be added to the staple products of the Island.

Prison.

Eighty-seven persons were committed to prison during the year. The daily average number of prisoners was 16. The total annua cost of the prison was 349*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

There were in 1889 302 convictions in the inferior courts, and 4 in the superior courts.

The inferior court convictions were :—

1. For offences against the person - - -	53
2. For prædial larceny - - -	31
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	3
4. For other offences - - -	215

The convictions in the supreme court were :—Two for offences against property other than arson, and two for other offences.

Hospital.

The daily average number of patients in 1889 was 15, nine males and six females. There were 134 admissions during the year ; 75 patients were discharged cured, and 16 died.

There is no lunatic asylum in the Island, the lunatics (seven) of Tobago being under treatment at Grenada, from which place they will probably be removed to the Trinidad Asylum.

Meteorological Observations.

A meteorological station of the second class was established in the beginning of March at Fort King George at an altitude of 360 feet. The rainfall for the 10 months March to December was 80·05 inches, being about 16 inches above the yearly average. The heaviest monthly fall was 15·21 inches in September. The heaviest daily fall was 4·18 inches on the 21st of that month. The number of days on which rain fell in the 10 months was 204.

The highest temperature observed was 93·0 in May, the lowest 69·5 September.

The mean temperature was 81·9. The wind was generally from the E.S.E.

General Remarks.

In the course of the year two attempts to establish heliographic communications between Trinidad and Tobago were made and proved unsuccessful. Toco, on the northern coast of Trinidad, and Scarborough on the south side of Tobago, were the stations chosen for the experiments which occupied on the whole eight days. The distance between these two places is about 19 miles as the crow flies. The flashes of the mirror were seen easily by the naked eye from both places, but from some cause or another the longer flashes appeared to be broken up into short ones; in other words the dashes of the Morse system were transformed into dots, the result being that words could not be spelt. It is to be regretted that, in the absence of cable communication, this means of conveying intelligence, uncertain as it is, cannot be taken advantage of.

The end of 1889 marks the close of the first year of the union of Trinidad and Tobago into one Colony.

All important changes in matters of policy and Government must necessarily be attended by some confusion in the beginning, more especially in one of this kind, where the two Colonies have previously existed under different conditions and laws, and where it is difficult to apply the same laws to both of them in all cases.

Among the inhabitants of Tobago there prevails much uncertainty of feeling as to the benefits that may hereafter accrue from the annexation. The immediate effect of the measure on the labouring classes was unfortunate—they having formed the expectation that a rise to the Trinidad rate of wages, without a corresponding increase in the amount of work required from them, must at once follow. Under this impression they struck work on many of the estates, and became so insolent and turbulent as to create uneasiness among the planters. At this juncture the Island was visited by one of Her Majesty's vessels of war, the presence of which—though not sent to quell a riot, as has been erroneously stated—did undeniable good, as it allayed the sense of insecurity which prevailed among the employers and the upper classes, generally, and showed the people that the Government would not be unsupported in case of emergency.

How great a difference exists between the average day's task and the relative day's wages in Trinidad and Tobago may be judged from the fact that when labourers in the latter place have had opportunities offered them of obtaining Trinidad wages on the usual terms, they have in many instances declared themselves unable to cope with the task required of them. In addition to these troubles there has been during the past year an exceptionally heavy and protracted rainy season whereby the roads have been cut up, and much damaged in many places, the traffic of the Island being greatly impeded in consequence.

Notwithstanding these evils there remain strong reasons to hope for success in the future. The financial position of the Island is, in spite of adverse circumstances, a sound one, and it seems

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

scarcely possible that Tobago, with all her natural advantages, her fertile acres of virgin soil, her wealth in valuable woods, her numerous streams, and, moreover, her healthy climate, should fail to benefit by union with so prosperous, industrious, and comparatively rich and important a Colony as Trinidad.

It may be some time before the desired result is seen, but, taking into consideration the above, and other facts, it appears certain—in so far as human events can be considered certain—that that result will be finally attained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. G. HAY,
Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Trinidad.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 81.

VICTORIA.

REPORT ON THE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY FOR 1888.

(In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 43.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.-11.]

REPORTS ON H.M.'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
30	Falkland Islands	1887
31	Basutoland	,,
32	St. Lucia	,,
33	Hong Kong	,,
34	Fiji	,,
35	British Honduras	,,
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,
37	Ceylon	,,
38	British New Guinea	,,
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turk's Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,

No. 81.

VICTORIA.

Governor Sir H. B. LOCH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 43.]

Government House, Melbourne,
October 31, 1889.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the digest of the statistics of Victoria for the year 1888.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1888, by HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, C.M.G., Government Statist.

Colonization of Victoria.

1. The territory embraced within the limits of the Colony of Victoria was originally settled in 1834, the first place occupied being the land abutting on Portland Bay, situated near its western extremity. In the following year a settlement was established on the River Yarra where Melbourne now stands. The Colony was then attached politically to New South Wales, of which it was called the Port Phillip District, but in 1851 it was separated from the mother Colony, and was permitted to assume the name of Victoria after that of Her present Majesty.

Subsequent progress.

2. Up to this time progress had been comparatively slow, the population of the Colony at the date of its severance from New South Wales being only about 80,000; but soon afterwards rich deposits of gold were discovered, and the advance was rapid. In less than two years the population had doubled, and in another year the revenue, imports, and exports had increased eightfold. After the lapse of some years the yield of gold diminished considerably, and a period of depression occurred, but as the people became settled on the land and the country was opened up by means of railways, prosperity revived, and this, with some intermissions, resulting generally from the reaction following upon periods of inflation and over speculation, has continued ever since.

Area of Victoria.

3. According to the latest computation the area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,944,628 square miles, and therefore Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British seas, contains 88,006 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

VICTORIA.

Positions of Australasian capitals.

4. The following are the latitudes and longitudes of the capital cities of the Australasian Colonies, the positions being the Observatories at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, the Barracks Observatory at Hobart, the Survey Office Observatory at Wellington, and the Government House at Perth. The figures have been corrected according to the latest information by Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, C.M.G., F.R.S., Government Astronomer of Victoria :—

Latitudes and Longitudes of Capitals of Australasian Colonies.

Colony.	Capital City.		
	Name.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
		° ′ ″	° ′ ″
Victoria - -	Melbourne - -	37 49 53	144 58 32
New South Wales -	Sydney - -	33 51 41	151 12 23
Queensland - -	Brisbane - -	27 28 0	153 1 36
South Australia -	Adelaide - -	34 55 34	138 35 4
Western Australia -	Perth - -	31 57 24	115 52 42
Tasmania - -	Hobart - -	42 53 25	147 19 57
New Zealand -	Wellington -	41 16 25	174 46 38

Governors.

5. Subjoined is a list of the Governors and Acting Governors of Victoria, with the dates of their assumption and retirement from office :—

Governors of Victoria.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe - - -	30th September 1839*	—
	15th July, 1851 -	5th May 1854.
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting) -	8th May 1854 - -	22nd June 1854.
Sir Charles Hotham, K.C.B. - - -	22nd June, 1854 -	31st December 1855.†
Major-General Edward Macarthur (Acting) -	1st January 1856 -	26th December 1856.
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. - - -	26th December 1856 -	10th September 1863.
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B. - -	11th September, 1863 -	7th May 1866.
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting).	7th May, 1866 - -	15th August 1866.
The Hon. Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.‡	15th August 1866 -	2nd March, 1873.

* At the first of these dates Mr. La Trobe assumed the office of Superintendent of Port Phillip; at the second he became Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.
† Sir Charles Hotham died at this date.
‡ Succeeded to the title of Viscount Canterbury, December, 1869.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting) -	3rd March 1873 -	19th March 1873.
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G. -	31st March 1873 -	22nd February 1879.
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) - -	3rd January 1875 -	10th January 1875.
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting) -	11th January 1875 -	14th January 1876.
The Most Hon. George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February 1879 -	18th April 1884.
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting) -	18th April 1884 -	15th July 1884.
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.	15th July 1884 -	Still in office.
Sir William Foster Stawell, K.C.M.G. (Lieutenant-Governor).	6th November 1886 -	12th March 1889.
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, G.C.M.G. (acting)	9th March, 1889 -	Still acting.

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on the 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the district until the assumption of office as Superintendent by Mr. C. J. La Trobe. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October 1846 to the 25th January 1847.

Governorships.

6. Since Victoria has been an independent colony the average time during which the Governors of Victoria, prior to Sir Henry Loch, not including the Acting Governors, have held office has been about four years and six months.

Interregna in Victoria.

7. During the 12 days between the 19th and the 31st March 1873, the former being the day on which Sir W. F. Stawell left the Colony and the latter on which Sir G. F. Bowen arrived, also during the five days between the 22nd and 27th February 1879, the former being the day on which Sir G. F. Bowen left, and the latter that on which Lord Normanby arrived, there was neither Governor nor Acting Governor in Victoria.

Salaries of Colonial Governors.

8. Both Victoria and Canada pay their Governor 10,000*l.* per annum, which is the highest amount paid by any British colony. New South Wales comes next with 30 per cent. less or 7,000*l.* The lowest salaries paid to Governors are in Labuan (400*l.*) and Virgin Islands (300*l.*); but the former, in the case of the present occupant of the office is supplemented by an allowance of 550*l.* per annum as Consul-General of Borneo. In the following statement the salaries of Governors are arranged in order, the highest being placed first and the rest in succession :—

Salaries of Governors of British Colonies.

Colony.	Salary of Governor.	Colony.	Salary of Governor.
	£		£
Victoria - - -	10,000	New Zealand - -	5,000
Canada (Governor-General)	10,000	Mauritius - - -	5,000
New South Wales - -	7,000	Straits Settlements - -	5,000
Ceylon - - -	6,666	Gibraltar - - -	5,000
Cape of Good Hope -	6,000*	Malta - - -	5,000
Jamaica - - -	6,000	British Guiana - -	5,000
Queensland - - -	5,000	Natal - - -	4,000†
South Australia - -	5,000	Cyprus - - -	4,000
Tasmania - - -	5,000	Trinidad - - -	4,000

* Including 1,000*l.* as High Commissioner of South Africa.
† Including 1,000*l.* as Governor of Zululand.

Colony.	Salary of Governor.	Colony.	Salary of Governor.
	£		£
Western Australia - -	3,000	Prince Edward's Island -	1,400
Barbados - - -	3,000	N.W. Territories of Canada (Lieutenant-Governor).	1,400
Leeward Islands - -	3,000		
Gold Coast - - -	3,000	British Guiana (Lieutenant-Governor).	1,350
Bermudas - - -	2,946		
Newfoundland - -	2,500	Gambia - - -	1,300
Windward Islands - -	2,500	Zululand (Resident Commissioner).	1,200
Sierra Leone - -	2,500		
Fiji - - - -	2,000	Hong Kong - -	1,033
Quebec - - -	2,000	Falkland Islands - -	1,000
Ontario - - -	2,000	Seychelles - - -	833
Manitoba - - -	2,000	Heligoland - -	800
Bahamas - - -	2,000	St. Vincent - -	800
British Honduras - -	1,800	St. Lucia - - -	800
Nova Scotia - -	1,800	Dominica - - -	700
New Brunswick - -	1,800	St. Christopher and Nevis -	600
British Columbia - -	1,800	Tobago - - -	600
British Bechuanaland -	1,800	Turks and Caicos Islands -	500
Lagos - - -	1,700	Montserrat - - -	500
Malta (Lieutenant-Governor).	1,600	St. Helena - - -	500
		Labuan - - -	400*
British New Guinea -	1,500	Virgin Islands - -	300
Basutoland - -	1,500		

NOTE.—The salaries of the Governors of Newfoundland, Hong Kong, Straits Settlements and Labuan are paid in dollars; and the salaries of the Governors of Ceylon, Mauritius, and Seychelles are paid in rupees. The former have been reduced to pounds sterling upon the assumption that a dollar is worth 4*s.* 2*d.*, and the latter have been similarly reduced under the assumption that a rupee is worth 1*s.* 8*d.*

Estimated population.

9. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1888 was as follows :—

Estimated Population, 31*st December* 1888.

Males - - - -	581,333
Females - - - -	509,536
Total - -	1,090,869

Mode of computing population estimate.

10. This estimate shows an increase of 54,750, viz., 31,289 males and 23,461 females, upon that for the end of 1887, published in the last issue of this work. The figures have, as usual, been derived from the numbers returned at the last census, with the addition of those expressing the excess of births over deaths and of arrivals over departures since the census was taken. The official records of births, deaths, and arrivals have been taken as they stand, but the record of departures being known to be defective an allowance has been made for those unrecorded, which

* Receives also 550*l.* as Consul-General of Borneo.

are estimated to have amounted to 5,269, viz., 4,138 males, and 1,131 females, in 1888, or to 41,257, viz., 32,892 males, and 8,365 females, during the whole period since the census was taken. These numbers have accordingly been deducted from the totals. Had no such deductions been made the apparent population at the end of 1888 would have been 1,132,126, viz., 614,225 males and 517,901 females.

Mean population, 1888.

11. Supposing the apparent population had been correct, the mean or average population during 1888 would have been 1,102,116, viz., 596,511 males and 505,605 females; but, calculating upon the basis of the reduced estimate, the mean population of the year may be set down as follows:—

Estimated Mean Population, 1888.

Males - - - - -	565,065
Females - - - -	496,985
Total - -	1,062,050

Population of Australasian Colonies.

12. The following table shows the estimated population of each Australasian Colony at the end of 1887 and 1888, and the increase of each during the 12 months ended with the latter:—

Estimated Population of Australasian Colonies, 1887 *and* 1888.

Colony.	Estimated Population at end of		Increase or Decrease (−)
	1887.	1888.	
Victoria - - - -	1,036,119	1,090,869	54,750
New South Wales - -	1,042,919	1,085,356	42,437
Queensland - - -	366,940	387,463	20,523
South Australia - - -	317,446	313,065	−4,381
Western Australia - -	42,488	42,137	−351
Total - -	2,805,912	2,918,890	112,978
Tasmania - - -	142,478	146,149	3,671
New Zealand - - -	603,361	607,380	4,019
Grand Total -	3,551,751	3,672,419	120,668

Order of Colonies in respect to increase of population.

13. The subjoined figures show the estimated per-centage of increase of the population of each Colony during the year 1888,

VICTORIA.

the Colonies being arranged in order according to the rate of increase in each :—

Order of Colonies in reference to Proportionate Increase of Population, 1888.

	Per Cent.
1. Queensland - - - -	5·59
2. Victoria - - - -	5·28
3. New South Wales - - -	4·07
4. Tasmania - - - -	2·58
5. New Zealand - - - -	·67
6. Western Australia - -	(—) ·83
7. South Australia - -	(—) 1·38

Increase in Australia and Australasia, 1888.

14. By the totals of the last table it may be ascertained that in 1888 the population of continental Australia increased by 4·03 per cent., and the population of continental and insular Australasia combined increased by 3·40 per cent.

Probable rate of increase 1881–1891.

15. In 10 years ended with the date of the census of 1881 the rate of increase of the population of the Australian continent was about 36 per cent., and of the continent combined with Tasmania and New Zealand about 42 per cent. Judging from the increase which is estimated to have taken place in the $7\frac{3}{4}$ years intervening between the date of the census and the end of 1888, it appears probable that both these increases, especially the first named, will be much exceeded in the 10 years ending with the next census (1891); and that the rate of increase of the population of Continental Australia will be found to have been about 47 per cent. and that of Continental and Insular Australasia combined about 44 per cent.

Time Victorian population will double.

16. Between the censuses of 1871 and 1881 the increase of the Victorian population was only 18 per cent., or about 1·6 per cent. per annum. At this rate the population of this Colony would double itself in 42 years. There is reason to believe, however, that since the last census the population has been increasing at a much faster rate, and that it may be expected to double itself in a considerably shorter period.

Chinese in Australasian Colonies, 1889.

17. At the beginning of 1889, the estimated total number of Chinese in the Australasian Colonies was then 49,805, the increase since the census of 1881 having been 6,099. The following are

the numbers in each Colony compared with the numbers returned at the census of 1881 :—

Chinese in Australasian Colonies, 1881 *and* 1889.

Colony.	Number of Chinese.		
	1881. (Enumerated.)	1889. (Estimated.)	Increase (+) Decrease (−).
Victoria - - - -	12,128	12,070	− 58
New South Wales - -	10,205	16,828	+6,623
Queensland - - -	11,229	8,244	−2,985
South Australia - -	4,151	6,830	+2,679
Western Australia - -	145	126	− 19
Total - -	37,858	44,098	+6,240
Tasmania - - -	844	1,000	+ 156
New Zealand - - -	5,004	4,707	− 297
Grand total -	43,706	49,805	+6,099

Aborigines.

18. At the first colonization of the district now called Victoria the aborigines were officially estimated to number about 5,000; but according to other and apparently more reliable estimates they numbered at that time 15,000. When the Colony was separated from New South Wales the number was officially stated to be 2,693. According to the census of 1881, the number returned was 780, viz., 460 males and 320 females; all, however, were not enumerated at that time, and there are now known to be 803 in the Colony, of whom 570 are pure blacks and the remainder half-castes. The existence of the few of the aboriginal race that still remain alive has no political or social significance whatever, and it will probably become extinct in the course of a few years.

Urban and rural population.

19. In the following table the area of Victoria is divided into three districts, the first being the metropolitan (Greater Melbourne), extending in all directions for a distance of 10 miles from the centre of the city; the second, viz., the extra-metropolitan towns, including the total space embraced in cities, towns, and boroughs (present or former) outside the limits of Greater Melbourne; and the third, viz., the extra-urban or rural, including the remaining portions of the Colony. In each of these districts the population

VICTORIA.

is shown at the end of 1888, as well as the average population during that year; also the ratio of the population of each district to that of the whole Colony, and the number of persons to the square mile.

Urban and Rural Population, 1888.

Districts.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Population at end of 1888.			Mean Population, 1888.
		Total.	Proportions per cent.	Persons to the Square Mile.	
Towns { Metropolitan	256	437,785	40·13	1,710	419,490
Towns { Extra Metropolitan	376	195,425	17·92	520	194,870
Total Urban	632	633,210	58·05	1,002	614,360
Extra Urban or Rural	87,252	457,659	41·95	5·2	447,690
Total of Victoria	87,884	1,090,869	100·00	12·4	1,062,050

Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

20. In 1888 the population of the metropolis was equal to fully two-fifths of that of the whole Colony. This proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures:—

Proportion of Population of Greater Melbourne to Total Population of Victoria.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1861	25·89	1881	32·81
1871	28·87	1888	40·13

Metropolitan populations, 1881–1888.

21. Estimates of the population of all the metropolitan cities of the different Australasian Colonies have been made for the middle of the year 1888, and in the following table the figures representing these are placed side by side with the figures derived from the returns of the census of 1881; the numerical and centesimal increases in the seven and a quarter years since the census was taken being also shown.

Metropolitan Population of the Australasian Colonies, 1881 *and* 1888.

Name of City.	Population.		Increase in $7\frac{1}{4}$ Years.	
	1881 (End of First Quarter enumerated).	1888 (Middle of the Year, estimated).	Numerical.	Centesimal.
Melbourne - -	282,947	419,490	136,543	48·26
Sydney - - -	224,211	357,690	133,479	59·53
Adelaide - - -	103,864	115,380	11,516	11·09
Brisbane - -	31,109	85,800	54,691*	175·80*
Hobart - - -	27,248	34,419	7,171	26·32
Wellington - -	20,563	30,590	10,027	48·76
Perth - - -	5,822	9,300	3,478	59·74

Increases of metropolitan populations compared.

22. According to the figures the numerical increase of the Melbourne population has been greater than that of any of the other metropolitan cities of Australasia, although in this respect it is closely approached by that of Sydney. In point of centesimal increase, Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Wellington, are all before Melbourne, it being doubtful, however, whether the boundaries within which the population of the first named was calculated as at the middle of 1888, do not extend further than those within which that population was made up when the returns of the census of 1881 were compiled.

Proportions of metropolitan to total population.

23. When the census of 1881 was taken, the metropolitan population formed a larger proportion of the total population in South Australia than it did in any other of the Australasian Colonies; in the middle of 1888, however, that position was occupied by Melbourne, Adelaide having fallen to the second place. The following were the proportions in each Colony at that time:—

Proportion of Metropolitan to Total Populations in Australasian Colonies, 1888.

	Per Cent.
Melbourne - - - -	39·50
Adelaide - - - - -	36·60
Sydney - - - - -	33·61
Hobart - - - - -	23·85
Brisbane - - - -	22·75
Perth - - - - -	21·98
Wellington - - - -	5·05

* As regards Brisbane it is thought probable that the population given for 1888 has been estimated over a larger suburban area than that given for 1881. If this is the case, the numerical and centesimal increases shown would obviously be too high.

VICTORIA.

Population of chief extra-metropolitan towns.

24. Next to the municipalities embraced under the head of Greater Melbourne, the most important towns in Victoria are—Ballarat, comprising three municipalities; Sandhurst, comprising two; Geelong, comprising three; and Castlemaine, comprising two municipalities. The estimated populations of these with their immediate suburbs, in 1888, were as follows:—

Population of Four Extra-Metropolitan Towns, 1888.

Town.	Population.
Ballarat - - - -	40,753
Sandhurst - - - -	36,020
Geelong - - - -	20,984
Castlemaine - - - -	8,900

Population of Melbourne and other cities compared

25. Melbourne is now more populous than any other town in the southern hemisphere except Buenos Ayres; than any town in the United Kingdom except London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester (with Salford), and Birmingham; than any town on the continent of Europe, except Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Constantinople, Moscow, and Naples; or than any town in the United States except New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Chicago, and St. Louis.

Mining population.

26. At the end of 1888 the estimated number of gold miners in Victoria was 25,142, or 655 less than the estimate of the previous year, and 10,047 less than the number returned at the census of 1881. These were divided as follows:—

Estimated Number of Gold Miners, 1888.

Alluvial miners	12,416	European miners	21,373
Quartz miners	12,726	Chinese miners	3,769
Total -	25,142	Total -	25,142

European and Chinese miners.

27. According to the same estimate, the Europeans engaged in quartz mining at the end of 1888 exceeded those engaged in alluvial mining by 3,667, the numbers being 12,520 and 8,853 respectively. The Chinese seldom practise quartz mining; the numbers returned engaged in that industry being only 206, as against 3,563 engaged in alluvial mining.

Area of Australasian Colonies.

28. The area of the Australian continent is estimated to be somewhat under three million square miles; but that area added to the areas of Tasmania and New Zealand amounts to nearly

three million one hundred thousand square miles. The following are the areas of the different Colonies:—

Areas of Australasian Colonies.

	Square Miles.
Victoria - - - -	87,884
New South Wales - - -	309,175
Queensland - - - -	668,224
South Australia - - -	903,425
Western Australia - - -	975,920
Total Australia -	2,944,628
Tasmania - - - -	26,375
New Zealand - - -	104,235
Total Australasia -	3,075,238

Area of Victoria and other Colonies.

29. It will be noticed that Victoria is by far the smallest Colony on the Australian continent, and the smallest of the group except Tasmania. If the whole continent were to be divided into 100 equal parts, the area of Victoria would embrace three such parts, that of new South Wales 10, that of Queensland 23, that of South Australia 30, and that of Western Australia 34. Victoria is thus less than a third of the size of New South Wales, little more than an eighth of that of Queensland, about a tenth of that of South Australia, and less than an eleventh of that of Western Australia.

Area of Australasia, Europe, and United States.

30. It may be mentioned that the area of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand is less by 680,764 square miles than the area of the continent of Europe (3,756,002 square miles), but exceeds by 47,647 square miles the area of the United States, exclusive of the Alaska territory (3,027,591 square miles).

Australasia compared with other British possessions.

31. The Australasian colonies occupy three-eighths, and Victoria nearly a ninetieth, of the whole area of the British dominions. The Australasian Colonies contain nearly a seventieth, and Victoria contains nearly a two hundred and sixtieth, of the population of the whole British Empire. The area of Australasia is somewhat smaller than that of Canada, which is the largest British possession; and the population of Canada exceeds that of Australasia by about a million and a quarter. The population of Victoria is exceeded by that of no British dependency except India, Canada, Ceylon, and Cape of Good Hope.

Area and population of the world.

32. The following is an estimate of the area and population of the world and its various continents. The scanty population of Australasia and Polynesia will be at once noticed. It will also be observed that by far the greater proportion, or about four-sevenths, of the total population of the earth is distributed

VICTORIA.

throughout Asia, but that the density of population there is little more than half that of Europe:—

The World.—Area and Population.

Continents.	Area in English Square Miles.	Estimated Population.	Persons to the Square Mile.
Europe - - -	3,756,002	338,710,000	90·2
Asia - - - -	17,208,208	830,898,000	48·3
Africa - - -	11,511,776	199,248,000	17·3
America - - -	14,850,631	111,511,000	7·5
Australasia and Polynesia -	3,455,802	4,702,000	1·4
Polarland - - -	1,728,585	82,000	·05
Total - -	52,511,004	1,485,151,000	28·3

Proportions of British dominions, &c. to world.

33. British dominions cover two-thirteenths of the earth's surface, and contain more than a sixth of its population; the Australasian Colonies cover nearly a seventeenth of its surface, but contain less than a four hundred and twentieth of its population; and Victoria does not cover much more than a six-hundredth part of its surface, and contains only about a fourteen-hundredth of its population.

Overland migration not recorded.

34. In the following paragraphs the immigration and emigration referred to is by sea only; the results given would probably be greatly modified if the overland traffic, of which no record exists, were to be taked into account, more especially since the facilities for overland intercourse with the neighbouring colonies have been increased by the extension of railways. For many years past two lines have extended from Melbourne to the River Murray, and complete railway communication has for some time existed between the capitals of Victoria and New South Wales, and this has now been extended on to the capital of Queensland. Similar communication has also existed since the 19th January 1887 between the capitals of this Colony and South Australia, by means of a railway running westward in Victoria to the South Australian border, where it is connected with the lines of that colony. With such facilities as these, it is natural to suppose that many persons about to come to Victoria from, or leave it for, one of the adjacent colonies, would find it more convenient to take the land route rather than that by the seaboard. As time advances, there is little doubt that the records kept by the Immigration Department will less and less account for the actual immigration and emigration

of the Colony. The insufficiency of the present returns of immigration and emigration to supply material for supplementing the returns of births and deaths, for the purpose of forming estimates of population between the census periods, has more than once been brought under the notice of the Government by the Government statist, who has suggested that steps should be taken to obtain a record of the arrivals and departures overland: but it seems that difficulties, at present supposed to be insuperable, stand in the way of taking note of such persons, and therefore there is no alternative but to leave them out of account altogether. It is evident that, supposing the returns of those who come and go by the seaboard are correct, and the births and deaths are all registered, the population estimates must always understate or overstate the truth, according as the arrivals or the departures overland are the greater.

Returns of arrivals and departures unduly swelled.

35. In consequence of the system pursued in keeping the records of immigration and emigration, the practice being to set down all who pass through Victorian ports on their way to other colonies and countries as both arriving in and departing from this colony, Victoria, being situated between South Australia and Western Australia on the one hand and New South Wales and Queensland on the other, seems always to have an unduly large number of persons coming in and leaving, whereby an impression is created that great numbers come to Victoria, but being dissatisfied with their prospects in this Colony, betake themselves elsewhere. If all are recorded accurately, the result showing those who remain would be correct; still it is to be regretted that some means could not be found of keeping the account without including a number of persons who have no connexion whatever with the Colony, and perhaps may have never so much as even landed on its shores.

Immigration and emigration, 1888.

36. The arrivals and departures by sea recorded during 1888, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follow:—

Immigration and Emigration 1888.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	68,575	33,457	102,032
Departures by sea - - -	41,380	18,849	60,229
Excess of arrivals - -	27,195	14,608	41,803

Gain by immigration, 1887 and 1888 compared.

37. Whilst the records of arrivals show larger numbers for 1888 than for 1887 by 11,885, the records of departures show smaller numbers by 7,892; the apparent net gain by excess of immigration over emigration was therefore more in the year under review than the previous one by 19,777.

VICTORIA.

Adults and children arriving and departing.

38. The immigration authorities do not note the exact ages of the persons arriving and departing, but classify them as adults, or those from 12 years of age upwards; as children, or those between one year of age and 12 years; and as infants, or those under one year. The following are the numbers under each of those heads who came and went during 1888:—

Arrivals and Departures of Adults, Children and Infants, 1888.

——	Adults.	Children.	Infants.	Total.
Arrivals - - - -	89,595	11,141	1,296	102,032
Departures - - -	55,324	4,335	570	60,229
Immigration in excess -	34,271	6,806	726	41,803

Arrivals from and departures for different countries.

39. In consequence of the practice which exists of recording the ports of original departure and final destination of the ships as being also those of all the passengers, instead of noting the ports at which the respective passengers joined the vessel and those at which they stated their intention of leaving it, much doubt must exist as to the accuracy of the records showing the countries from which persons who arrived in the Colony came, and to which those who left it went. The returns, however, as furnished by the immigration authorities, are given for what they may be worth.

Arrivals from and Departures for Different Countries, 1888.

Countries.	Arrivals therefrom.	Departures thereto.	Excess of Immigration.
New South Wales and Queensland -	39,774	29,257	10,517
South and Western Australia - -	9,384	5,982	3,402
Tasmania - - - -	18,030	9,381	8,649
New Zealand - - - -	12,364	3,889	8,475
The United Kingdom - - -	18,406	8,512	9,894
Foreign Countries - - -	4,074	3,208	866
Total - - -	102,032	60,229	41,803

VICTORIA.

Net immigration from various countries.

40. It appears from the records that in each of the six years ended with 1886 persons passing from Victoria to New South Wales and Queensland by sea greatly outnumbered those coming in an opposite direction, but in the two subsequent years the reverse was the case, the balance of sea migration between New South Wales and Victoria being against the former by 939 persons in 1887, and by 10,517 in 1888. From all the other Australasian Colonies, as well as from the United Kingdom and foreign countries, Victoria gained considerably in population in every one of the years, the gain in 1888, however, from South and Western Australia not having been so great as in 1887, 1886, and 1885, and the gain from foreign countries not having been so great as in 1887 or 1886. On the other hand, the gain from Tasmania and New Zealand in 1888 was greater than in any of the previous years named, and that from the United Kingdom was only exceeded in 1886 and 1883. The following table shows the recorded balance of immigration over emigration, or the contrary, from or to each country in the last eight years. The figures must be accepted subject to the caution given in the paragraph immediately preceding the last table:—

Net Immigration from different Countries, 1881 *to* 1888.

Year.	Immigration from in Excess of Emigration to—						Emigration to, in Excess of Immigration from, New South Wales and Queensland.	Net Immigration.
	New South Walesand Queensland.	South and Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	The United Kingdom.	Foreign Countries.		
1881 -	—	192	2,863	1,272	3,960	954	1,924	7,322
1882 -	—	2,929	3,455	165	6,702	607	2,978	10,880
1883 -	—	2,362	,500	407	10,276	926	7,441	11,030
1884 -	—	768	5,332	796	9,863	1,029	3,647	14,141
1885 -	—	6,136	5,076	1,628	8,875	759	7,492	14,982
1886 -	—	7,248	5,556	2,694	11,722	2,561	4,479	25,302
1887 -	939	3,991	3,106	1,538	8,813	3,639	—	22,026
1888 -	10,517	3,402	8,649	8,475	9,894	866	—	41,803
Total -	—	27,028	38,542	16,975	70,105	11,341	16,505	147,486

Net immigration from neighbouring Colonies.

41. It appears from the table that, in the eight years ended with 1888, Victoria lost 16,505 persons to New South Wales and Queensland, but gained 82,545 from the other Colonies of the group. The net gain from her neighbours during the period was thus 66,040.

Immigration and emigration in Australasian

42. The following table shows the arrivals in and departures from each Australasian Colony by sea, and the excess of the

VICTORIA.

Colonies, 1888.

former over the latter during the year 1888; the sexes of those who came and who went away being also distinguished:—

Immigration and Emigration Returns of the Australasian Colonies, 1888.

Colony.	Immigrants.			Emigrants.*			Excess of Immigrants over Emigrants.†		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - -	68,575	33,457	102,032	41,380	18,849	60,229	27,195	14,608	41,803
New South Wales	46,066	19,160	65,226	29,922	13,759	43,681	16,144	5,401	21,545
Queensland -	24,330	10,534	34,864	17,063	5,996	23,059	7,267	4,538	11,805
South Australia -	9,231	3,406	12,637	8,664	4,086	12,750	567	−680	−113
Western Australia	1,205	393	1,598	2,064	730	2,794	−859	−337	−1,196
Total - -	149,407	66,950	216,357	99,093	43,420	142,513	50,314‡	23,530‡	73,844‡
Tasmania - -	12,570	6,296	18,866	11,984	5,952	17,936	586	344	930
New Zealand -	9,112	4,494	13,606	15,048	7,733	22,781	−5,936	−3,239	−9,175
Grand total -	171,089	77,740	248,829	126,125	57,105	183,230	44,964‡	20,635‡	65,599‡

NOTE.—The figures in this table refer to immigration and emigration by sea only.

Net gain by immigration to Australia and Australasia.

43. The figures in the table indicate the persons going from Colony to Colony as well as those arriving from and departing for distant countries. The figures in the total and grand total lines of the last three columns, however, ought to show the net gain to the population of Australia and Australasia by immigration. By the last of these columns it is seen that in 1888 the Australian continent apparently gained 73,844, and the continent, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, apparently gained 65,599 inhabitants. The corresponding figures for 1887 were 61,372 and 65,041; and those for 1886 were 63,144 and 64,947. Persons, however, leave all the Colonies by sea without their departure being noted; therefore the actual gain to the population from without is always less than the records indicate.

Male and female immigration to Colonies.

44. It will be noticed that the net immigration of both sexes during the year was very much larger to Victoria than to any other Colony of the group, also that whilst South Australia gained 567 males, she lost 680 females, the net loss being 113; and that Western Australia lost 859 males and 337 females, and New Zealand lost 5,936 males and 3,239 females, the total loss during the year being 1,196 in the one case and 9,175 in the other.

* The figures in these columns understate the truth. Many persons leave all the Colonies by sea without their departure being noted.

† Where the minus sign (−) appears the departures exceeded the arrivals by the number against which it is placed.

‡ Net figures.

45. The following, according to the table, is the order in which the Colonies stood during 1888, in reference to the net increase of their populations from external sources :—

Order of Colonies in respect to gain by immigration.

Order of the Colonies in reference to Excess of Immigrants over Emigrants, 1888.

1. Victoria.
2. New South Wales.
3. Queensland.
4. Tasmania.
5. South Australia
6. Western Australia } Emigrants exceeded immigrants.
7. New Zealand

46. In 1888 immigration received no State assistance in Victoria or South Australia; but it was still largely subsidized in Queensland, and to a less extent in New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. The following are the differences between the number of persons who arrived in the various Colonies entirely at their own expense and those who left them in that year the Colonies being placed in order :—

Order of Colonies in respect to gain by unassisted immigration.

Order of the Colonies in reference to Excess of Unassisted Immigrants over Emigrants, or the contrary, 1888.

	Excess.
1. Victoria - - - -	41,803
2. New South Wales - - -	21,017
3. Queensland - - - -	3,456
4. Tasmania - - - -	898
5. South Australia - - -	–113
6. Western Australia - - -	–1,246
7. New Zealand - - -	–9,660

47. Melbourne, the metropolis of Victoria, was incorporated as a town by Act 6 Vict., No. 7, which was assented to on the 12th August 1842. It was afterwards ordained a city by Royal letters patent dated at Westminster on the 25th June 1847, and gazetted in Sydney on the 5th February 1848. Geelong, then the second place in point of importance in the Colony, was incorporated as a town on the 12th October 1849, under Act 13 Vict., No. 40.

Incorporation of Melbourne and Geelong.

48. But on the 29th December 1854 an Act was passed (18 Vict., No. 15) providing that any place in Victoria, of a certain limited size, containing a given number of inhabitants, might be erected into a municipality upon the petition of a stated number

Acts for creating municipalities.

VICTORIA.

of its resident householders. The proclamation of district road boards had previously been provided for on the 8th February 1853, under Act 16 Vict., No. 40. Out of these two systems of local self-government have sprung the present municipal institutions of Victoria.

Local government statutes.

49. The existing municipal bodies are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, or boroughs, and the second shires. Both these bodies are regulated under the Local Government Acts (38 Vict., No. 506, and 47 Vict., No. 786), and are called municipal districts.* Each municipal district is a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and is capable of suing and of being sued, purchasing, holding, and alienating land, &c.

Cities, towns, and boroughs.

50. A borough must not be of a greater area than nine square miles,† and, on being constituted, must have a population of inhabitant householders of not less than 300. No point within its limits must be more than six miles distant from any other point. Any borough having a gross revenue of not less than 10,000*l.* may be declared by the Governor in Council a town, and any one having a gross revenue of not less than 20,000*l.*, may be declared by the Governor in Council a city.

Shires.

51. Portions of country containing rateable property capable of yielding, upon a rate not exceeding 1*s.* in the £ on the annual value thereof, a sum of 500*l.*, may be proclaimed as shires.

Sub-division of districts.

52. The Governor in Council may sub-divide any municipal district into any number of sub-divisions not exceeding eight.

Municipal councillors.

53. The number of councillors in a municipality is fixed by the Governor in Council. It must by the statute be some multiple of three, and must not be less than six or more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is sub-divided the number of councillors is three for each division, male persons liable to be rated in respect of property of the rateable value of 20*l.* at least in any municipal district are qualified to hold the office of councillor. Being a contractor or the holder of any office of profit under the council, being an uncertificated or undischarged bankrupt or insolvent, or being convicted or attainted of felony, perjury or any infamous crime, renders a person incapable of being, or continuing to be a councillor. The election of councillors takes place annually. A third part of the councillors retires each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected.

Chairman of council.

54. The councillors elect their own chairman, who in the case of boroughs is called the mayor; in the case of shires the president.

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* Until the end of 1874, some of the present shires were, under former Acts, called road districts. The powers these were entitled to exercise were somewhat less than those of shires. The "Local Government Act," which came into force on the 1st January, 1875, superseded former Acts, and constituted all the then road districts shires. The former have therefore been treated and alluded to as shires in the following paragraphs.

† Or 5,760 acres. Notwithstanding this proviso, four boroughs have larger areas, viz., Sandhurst, with 7,900 acres; St. Arnaud, with 6,355 acres; Stawell, with 5,996 acres; and Port Fairy, with 5,902 acres.

The chairman becomes a justice of the peace, by virtue of his office, during the time he holds office and one year longer.

Plurality of votes.

55. Plurality of votes for the election of councillors is allowed upon the following scale:—

In Boroughs.

Properties rated at an annual value of 50*l.* - - - -	One vote.
Properties rated at an annual value of from 50*l.* to 100*l.* - - -	Two votes.
Properties rated at an annual value of over 100*l.* - - - -	Three votes.

In Shires.

Properties rated at an annual value of 25*l.* - - - -	One vote.
Properties rated at an annual value of from 25*l.* to 75*l.* - - -	Two votes.
Properties rated at an annual value of over 75*l.* - - - -	Three votes.

Ten pounds rating insufficient without occupation.

56. No person is allowed to vote for property of less than 10*l.* annual value unless he is the occupier thereof. In other cases either the owner or occupier but not both, may vote.

Enrolment in sub-divisions.

57. Where any municipal district is sub-divided, the ratepayers are enrolled for the sub-division in which the property in respect of which they are enrolled is situated.

Rateable property.

58. All land situated in a municipal district, except Crown land and land used for public purposes, is rateable property.

General and separate rates.

59. General rates are made and levied on each municipal district. They must not be more than 2*s.* 6*d.*, or less than 6*d.* in the £ of the net annual value of such property. Separate rates in addition, not exceeding 6*d.* in the £, may by consent of one third of the ratepayers in a particular portion of the district be levied upon the property within such portion, for the execution of works intended for its special benefit.

Number of urban and rural municipalities.

60. In 1888 the cities of Victoria numbered 8; the towns also numbered 8; the boroughs 43, or 59 in all. The shires numbered 126. The total numbers were the same as in the previous year.

Area of municipalities.

61. The total area included in the two descriptions of municipalities is as follows:—

Area embraced in Municipalities, 1888.

	Square Miles.
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	345
Shires - - - - -	85,472
Total - -	85,817

VICTORIA.

Proportion to total area of Victoria.

62. The estimated area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles. It thus appears that all but about a forty-second part of this area is included within the limits of municipal districts.

Population of municipalities.

63. The population of the two kinds of districts, as estimated by the municipal authorities, was as follows in 1888:—

Population of Municipalities, 1888.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	570,873
Shires - - - -	501,746
Total - - -	1,072,619

Population of Victoria by municipal estimate.

64. The population living outside municipalities is believed to amount to about 2,000, and it is estimated that the increase between the date of the municipal returns of population and the end of the year was 22,851. Adding these numbers to the municipal estimate, there results a total of 1,097,470, or 6,601 more than the estimated population of the Colony already adopted, viz., 1,090,969.

Dwellings in municipalities.

65. The following is a statement of the number of dwellings in the two kinds of municipal districts in 1888:—

Dwellings in Municipalities, 1888.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	123,922
Shires - - - -	109,049
Total - - -	232,971

Persons to a dwelling in municipalities.

66. According to the figures for 1888 the average number of inhabitants to a dwelling is something less than 4⅔ in both descriptions of municipalities; the exact proportions being 4·61 in cities, towns, and boroughs, and 4·60 in shires.

Parliament of Victoria.

67. The "Constitution Act" of Victoria* originally provided for the establishment of two Houses of Parliament, viz., the Legislative Council or Upper House, to consist of 30 members elected for ten years, representing six districts, and a Legislative Assembly or Lower House, to consist of 60 members elected for five years, representing 37 districts; a property qualification to be necessary for the members and electors of both Houses.

Number and qualification of members of Parliament.

68. Since the passing of the "Constitution Act" the number of members of the Council has been increased to 42,† elected for six years, representing 14 provinces; and the number of members of the Assembly has been increased to 95, elected for three years (unless sooner dissolved by the Governor), representing 84 districts.

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* Imperial Act, 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 55, Schedule I. For an account of the Victorian Constitution, *see* "Victorian Year Book, 1883–4," page 610 *et seq.*

† In September, 1889, the number of members of the Legislative Council was still further increased to 48.

The property qualification of the latter has been entirely abolished as regards both members and electors; that of the former has been reduced, and is at present as follows:—For members, the possession of freehold property of an annual value of 100*l.*; for electors, the possession of freehold property rated in some municipal district at not less than 10*l.* per annum, or occupation of leasehold property of not less than a 25*l.* annual rating. Graduates of universities within the British dominions, barristers and solicitors, legally qualified medical practitioners, officiating ministers of religion, certificated schoolmasters, and officers in the army and navy—when not on active service—also have votes for the Legislative Council.

Persons incapable of becoming members.

69. Judges, ministers of religion, persons holding any office or place of profit under the Crown, or employed in the Public Service for salary, wages, or emolument (except responsible Ministers), persons who are interested in any bargain or contract entered into on behalf of Her Majesty, uncertificated bankrupts and insolvents, and persons attainted of treason, or convicted of any felony or infamous offence within any part of Her Majesty's dominions, are incapable of being elected or continuing to be members of either House of Parliament, neither can the same person be a member of the two Houses at the same time.

Number of and provision for ministers.

70. The "Constitution Act" provides for the sum of 14,000*l.* being set aside annually for the payment of nine responsible ministers, of whom not more than eight may be members of the Assembly, but at least four must be members of either the Council or Assembly. A subsequent Act* provides for the appointment of an additional minister, at a salary of 1,500*l.* per annum.

Members may not accept offices of profit.

71. No person who is a member of either House of Parliament or has not ceased to be one for a period of six months may accept any office or place of profit under the Crown, except the office of responsible Minister, Judge of the Supreme Court, President or Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Council, or Speaker or Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly. Should he do so he is liable to forfeit the sum of 50*l.* for every week he may hold such office or place, together with full costs of suit to any person who may sue for the same.

Payment of members.

72. Members of the Legislative Council receive no payment for their attendance in Parliament, but every member of the Legislative Assembly who is not in receipt of any official salary or annual payment from the State, is entitled to receive reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance in the discharge of his Parliamentary duties, at the rate of 300*l.* per annum, out of the consolidated revenue.

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* "The Officials in Parliament Act, 1883" (47 Vict., No. 780).

VICTORIA.

Electors' rights.

73. The names of ratepayers in municipal districts are placed on the rolls of the Legislative Assembly—also on those of the Legislative Council if qualified—without action on their own part, but non-ratepayers, or property holders residing in another electorate and not enrolled as ratepayers, wishing to vote for either House of Parliament must take out "electors' rights," for which they are required to pay the sum of sixpence. These "rights" must be renewed every three years.

Plural voting.

74. Persons paying rates in several provinces or electoral districts may vote in all such at the same election, but no one may vote more than once in the same province or electoral district, although he may have several properties rated independently therein.

Franchise extended to police.

75. By the "Police Franchise Act, 1888" (52 Vict. No. 969), assented to on the 20th November 1888 members of the police force were for the first time allowed to vote at elections of members of either House of Parliament.

Foreigners must be naturalized.

76. Foreigners who are not naturalized or denizen subjects of Her Majesty, and have not resided in Victoria for 12 months previous to the 1st January or 1st July of any year, are not qualified to vote at elections of members of either House of Parliament.

Males must be of age. Females not qualified.

77. Males under 21 and females of any age are not qualified to be returned as members of, or to vote at elections for, either House of Parliament. No one can be elected for the Upper House until he is of the full age of 30 years.

Upper House—members increased in.

78. By the "Legislative Council Amending Act, 1888" (52 Vict., No. 995), passed on the 22nd December 1888, it was provided that the number of members of the Legislative Council should be increased from 42 to 48, the election of the six new members, however, not to take place until September, 1889. The number and boundaries of the provinces not being changed, eight provinces will be represented by three members each, and six provinces will be represented by four members each.

Lower House—members increased in.

79. By the "Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1888" (52 Vict. No. 1,008), which as to registration of electors came into operation at its passing, viz., on the 22nd December 1888, and in all other respects at the next subsequent dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, viz., on the 11th March 1889, the number of electoral districts was increased from 55 to 84, and the number of members from 86 to 95.

Members to each district.

80. Of the present electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly 11 are represented by two members each, and 73 by one member each. Since the elections in November 1882, each electoral province for the Council has been uniformly represented by three members.

Electors on the rolls.

81. The number of electors on the rolls of both Houses of the Legislature in 1887–8 and 1888–9 is shown in the following table :—

Electors on the Rolls, 1888 *and* 1889.

Description of Roll.	Legislative Council.		Legislative Assemby.	
	1887–8.	1888–9.	1887–8.	1888–9.
Ratepayers' roll -	129,392	137,450	196,208	207,341
General roll - -	760	1,112	14,924	36,389
Total - -	130,152	138,562	211,132	243,730

Electors who voted—Legislative Council.

82. At the last 10 biennial elections for the Legislative Council the proportion of electors who have recorded their votes in provinces where the election has been contested has rarely been much greater than half, and on four occasions has been less than half. The following are the proportions at each election :—

Proportion of Voters at Elections for the Legislative Council, 1870 *to* 1888.

Year of Election.	Proportion of Electors of contested Provinces who voted.	Year of Election.	Proportion of Electors of contested Provinces who voted.
	Per cent.		Per cent.
1870 - - -	46·65	1880 - -	57·18
1872 - - -	54·07	1882 - -	55·13
1874 - - -	45·99	1884 - -	56·70
1876 - - -	51·16	1886 - -	48·04
1878 - - -	45·61	1888 - -	51·76

Electors who voted—Legislative Assembly.

83. At elections for the Legislative Assembly close upon two-thirds of the electors have generally recorded their votes in contested districts; whereas in elections for the Legislative Council the proportion has been rarely much above half, as has been already shown. The following are the proportions who voted

VICTORIA.

at the last 10 general elections of members of the Lower House in districts in which the election has been contested:—

Proportion of Voters at General Elections for the Legislative Assembly, 1866 to 1889.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of contested Districts who voted.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of contested Districts who voted.
	Per cent.		Per cent.
1866 - - -	55·10	1880 (February) -	66·56
1868 - - -	61·59	1880 (July) -	65·85
1871 - - -	65·02	1883 - -	64·96
1874 - - -	61·00	1886 - -	64·70
1877 - - -	62·29	1889 - -	66·58

Proportion of members and electors of both houses to population.

84. The population of Victoria at the end of December 1888 is estimated to have been 1,090,869, and there being 42 members and 138,562 electors for the Upper House, there is one member to every 25,973, and one elector to every 7·9, of the population. After the increase of members of this House to 48, however, prescribed to take place in September 1889, the proportion of members of this House to the same population would be one to every 22,726. In like manner, there being 95 members of the Legislative Assembly, and 243,730 electors of that House, there is now one member to every 11,483, and one elector to every 4·5 of the population.

Proportion of members to electors.

85. The proportion of members to electors is one to every 3,299 for the Upper House, and one to every 2,566 for the Lower House. After the increase of members of the Legislative Council, the proportion for that House will be one member to every 2,887 electors.

Proportion of peers to population of United Kingdom.

86. The estimated population of the United Kingdom about the middle of 1887 was 37,091,564, and the Upper House in the same year consisted of 560 peers. The proportion was therefore one peer to every 66,235 of the population. If Victoria were to be represented in the same proportion so far as the Upper House is concerned that House would consist of no more than 17 members, instead of 42, soon to be increased to 48.

Proportion of members of Imperial Parliament to population.

87. The United Kingdom returns 670 members to the Imperial Parliament, viz., 495 for England, 72 for Scotland, and 103 for Ireland. The proportion of members to the population of the United Kingdom was one to every 55,361; or for England, one

Representation to population in Victoria and United Kingdom.

member to every 57,065 persons; for Scotland, one member to every 55,437 persons; and for Ireland one member to every 47,116 persons. If Victoria were to be represented according to population in the same proportion as the United Kingdom, she would, instead of sending 95 members to the Lower House, return only about 20; if in the same proportion as England, she would return 19; if in the same proportion as Scotland, about 20; and if in the same proportion as Ireland, 23.*

Upper House in Australasian Colonies; members and electors.

88. With the exception of Western Australia, all the Australasian Colonies possess responsible Government, and an Upper and a Lower House of Parliament. In three of these Colonies the members of the Upper House are elected, and in the other three they are nominated by the Governor. The following is a statement of the number of members of that House, and the manner and term of their appointment in each Colony, also the number of electors in the three Colonies in which the appointment is by election :—

Upper House in Australasian Colonies.—Members and Electors.

Colony.	Number of Members.	Manner of Appointment.	Term of Appointment.	Number of Electors.
Victoria - -	42†	Elected - -	Three members retire every two years	138,562
New South Wales -	70	Nominated -	Life‡ - - - -	—
Queensland -	39	Nominated§ -	Life - - - -	—
South Australia -	24	Elected - -	Eight members retire every three years.	32,072
Tasmania -	18	Elected - -	Five years - - -	6,135
New Zealand -	44	Nominated -	Life‖ - - - -	—

Upper House; qualification of members.

89. The following is a statement of the qualification of members of the Upper House in the various Colonies. Victoria

* The population of England has been assumed to be 28,247,151, of Scotland 3,991,499, of Ireland 4,852,914.

† To be increased to 48 in September 1889. Each of the six new members will hold his seat for a period of six years.

‡ A member may resign, and he vacates his office by being absent for two successive sessions without leave; by becoming a citizen of a foreign state; by becoming bankrupt or insolvent; by becoming a public contractor or defaulter; or by being attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or any infamous crime.

§ Four-fifths of the persons nominated must not be holders of any office of emolument under the Crown, except officers of Her Majesty's Sea and Land Forces on full or half pay, or retired officers on pension.

‖ If a member of this House is absent without leave for two successive sessions, or makes an acknowledgment of obedience or allegiance to any foreign state or becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or is convicted of certain crimes, his seat thereby becomes vacant.

VICTORIA.

appears to be the only Colony of the group in which a property qualification is necessary :—

Upper House in Australasian Colonies.— Qualification of Members.

Victoria - -	At least 30 years of age; a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty; possessed of freehold property in Victoria of the value of 100*l.* per annum.*
New South Wales -	At least 21 years of age; a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty.
Queensland - -	At least 21 years of age; a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty.
South Australia -	At least 30 years of age; resident three years in the Colony.
Tasmania - -	At least 30 years of age; a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty; or a holder of letters of denization or certificate of naturalization.†
New Zealand - -	A natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty.

Upper House; qualification of electors.

90. A property qualification for electors of members of the Upper House exists in three Colonies in which the appointment is by election. The following is a description of the necessary qualifications :—

Upper House in Australasian Colonies— Qualification of Electors.

Victoria - -	At least 21 years of age; possessed of freehold property rated in some municipal district at not less than 10*l.* per annum, or occupying leasehold property of not less than a 25*l.* annual rating; or being a graduate of some university in the British dominions, a barrister, a solicitor, a legally qualified medical practitioner, an officiating minister of religion, a certificated schoolmaster, or an officer of the Army or Navy not on active service.
South Australia -	At least 21 years of age; possessed of a freehold estate of the value of 50*l.*, or a leasehold of 20*l.* annual value with three years to run; or occupying a dwelling-house of 25*l.* annual value.
Tasmania - -	At least 21 years of age; and a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty; possessed of a freehold estate of the value of 20*l.* per annum, or a leasehold of 80*l.* per annum; or being a graduate of some university in the British dominions, an associate of arts of Tasmania, a barrister, a solicitor, a legally qualified medical practitioner, an officiating minister of religion, an officer or a retired officer of H.M. Army or Navy not on actual service, or a retired officer of the Tasmanian Volunteer Force.

* Judges of any court in Victoria; ministers of religion; persons attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or infamous offence, and uncertificated insolvents are disqualified from being elected, or continuing to be, members of this House.

† Judges of the Supreme Court; persons holding offices of profit or emolument by the appointment of the Governor in Council (except responsible Ministers) and contractors on account of the Public Service are not eligible as members.

Upper House and moneybills.

91. The Upper House cannot initiate money Bills in any of the Colonies. In New South Wales it claims the right to alter such Bills, but this is not admitted by the Lower House. In Tasmania the Upper House has power to reduce, but not to increase the amounts proposed in such Bills. In the other Colonies the Upper House cannot alter a money Bill, but must either pass or reject it as a whole.

Upper House; payment of members.

92. In South Australia members of the Upper House receive 200*l.* per annum for their services; in New Zealand they receive 100*l.* for every session attended if they live more than three miles from the Parliament buildings, in other cases no payment. In the remaining Colonies members of this House receive no remuneration for their services.

Upper House; dissolution by the Governor.

93. In South Australia the Upper House can be dissolved by the Governor, but only in the event of its rejecting the same Bill passed twice by the Lower House, a general election of the latter having intervened between the first and second passings, and an absolute majority of the Lower House concurring in the second passing. In the other Colonies the Governor has no power to dissolve the Upper House.

Lower House; members and electors.

94. In all the Australasian Colonies which possess responsible Government the members of the Lower House are elected. The following table shows the number of members, the term for which they are elected, and the number of electors for this House in each Colony:—

Lower House in Australasian Colonies.—Members and Electors.

Colony.	Number of Members.	Term for which Elected.	Number of Electors.
Victoria - - - -	95	Three years -	243,730
New South Wales - - -	137	Three years -	285,408
Queensland - - -	72	Five years -	72,458
South Australia - - -	52	Three years -	62,434
Tasmania - - - -	36	Five years -	25,312
New Zealand - - -	95*	Three years -	175,410

* Four of these are Maoris. After the next election the total number of members is to be reduced to 74, viz., 70 European and 4 Maori members.

VICTORIA.

Lower House; qualification of members.

95. No property qualification is necessary for members for the Lower House in any of the Colonies. The following is the necessary qualification :—

Lower House in Australasian Colonies.—Qualification of Members.

Victoria - -	At least 21 years of age, and resident in Victoria for the space of two years.*
New South Wales -	At least 21 years of age, absolutely free, and a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty.†
Queensland - -	At least 21 years of age, absolutely free, and qualified and registered as a voter in any electoral district.‡
South Australia -	Same qualification as an elector (*post*).
Tasmania - -	At least 21 years of age, and a natural-born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty.§
New Zealand - -	Same qualification as an elector (*post*).

Lower House; qualification of electors.

96. To entitle a person to be an elector for members of the Lower House of Parliament, a property qualification is not essential in any of the Australasian Colonies except Tasmania. A second vote in a different electoral district is, however, in most instances, acquired in respect to property. The following is a statement of the qualification of electors for this House in each of the Colonies:—

Lower House in Australasian Colonies.—Qualification of Electors.

Victoria -	Any person at least 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, not subject to any legal incapacity, and having resided in Victoria for the space of one year, may vote by virtue of being included in the lists of ratepaying electors, or by virtue of being the holder of an "elector's right," but no person may vote twice in the same electoral district at one election.
New South Wales -	Any person at least 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, is entitled to be placed on the roll of electors either in respect to residence or property.

* Members of the Legislative Council, judges of any court in Victoria, ministers of religion, persons attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or nefarious crime, and uncertificated insolvents are disqualified from sitting or voting in this House.

† No person can be a member of this House who is a member of the Upper House, who holds any office of profit under the Crown, during pleasure or for a term of years, or who is interested in any contract for or on account of the Public Service.

‡ Members of the Upper House, ministers of religion, holders of an office of profit under the Crown (except responsible Ministers and two other officers to be named by the Governor in Council), Crown pensioners (except officers in the Army or Navy) are incapable of being elected for this House.

§ Judges of the Supreme Court, persons holding offices of profit or emolument under the Crown (except responsible Ministers), and contractors on account of the Public Service are not eligible as members.

Queensland - -	Any person at least 21 years of age, absolutely free, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, and being a resident in any electoral district for a period of six months, is entitled to be placed on the roll of electors either in respect to residence or property.
South Australia -	Any person at least 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, untainted by crime, and having been on the electoral roll of his district for six months prior to the election is entitled to vote.
Tasmania - -	An elector must be at least 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, and must be the owner or occupier of property of any value, as shown on the assessment roll, or must be in receipt of income, salary, or wages of not less than 60*l.* per annum, of which 30*l.* must be received during the six months prior to the claim to vote being sent in.
New Zealand -	For European representation:—Any person 21 years of age (not a Maori), resident in the Colony, and six months in an electoral district, is entitled to be placed on the register of voters, either in respect to residence or property; but for a Maori to be placed on the register it is necessary he should be possessed of a 25*l.* freehold under Crown title, or be on a ratepayers' roll. For Maori representation:—Every Maori may vote for the district in which he resides without registration.

NOTE.—In most, if not all the colonies, lunatics, paupers, and criminals are disqualified from voting. In Victoria the police have recently been admitted to the franchise, but it is believed this privilege is not accorded to them in the other Colonies.

Lower House; payment of members.

97. In Victoria each member of the Lower House is entitled to receive 300*l.* per annum in reimbursement of expenses incurred in the discharge of his Parliamentary duties. In South Australia each member receives 200*l.* per annum for his services. In New Zealand each member receives 100*l.* per session for his services, also in consideration of necessary expenses incurred 25*l.* per session if he lives within three miles, or 50*l.* if he lives beyond that distance from the Parliament buildings.

Lower House; dissolution by the Governor.

98. In all the Colonies the Lower House of Parliament can be dissolved at the pleasure of the Governor. In such cases His Excellency acts generally according to the advice of Ministers, but there are instances in which their advice has been disregarded and a dissolution has been refused.

Females cannot be elected or vote at elections.

99. Females can neither be elected as members nor vote for the election of members of either House of Parliament in any of the Australasian Colonies.

Members, electors, &c., in Australasian Colonies.

100. In the following table a summary is given for each Australasian Colony, except Western Australia, of the number of inhabitants at the end of 1888; the number of members and electors for the Lower House of Parliament in 1889; the proportion of inhabitants to a member, of inhabitants to an elector, and of

VICTORIA.

electors to a member; also the per-centage of electors who voted at the last general election held in each Colony:—

Lower Houses of Parliament in Australasian Colonies.— Members, Electors, and Votes Polled.

Colony.	Inhabitants at end of 1888.	Lower House, 1889.					Last General Election.	
		Members.	Electors.	Inhabitants to a Member.	Inhabitants to an Elector.	Electors to a Member.	Year.	Per-centage of Electors who voted.
Victoria - -	1,090,869	95	243,730	11,483	4·48	2,566	1889	66·58
New South Wales.	1,035,740	137	285,408	7,925	3·80	2,083	1889	59·09
Queensland -	387,463	72	72,458	5,381	5·35	1,006	1888	73·92
South Australia	318,303	52	62,546	6,121	5·09	1,203	1887	48·71
Tasmania -	146,149	36	25,312	4,060	5·77	703	1886	70·88*
New Zealand†-	607,380	91	175,410	6,675	3·46	1,928	1887	67·20

Finance account, 1887–8.

101. The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of Victoria in the financial year ended on the 30th June, 1888; the excess of the former over the latter; the credit balance brought forward from 1886–7, and that carried forward to 1888–9:—

Finance Account, 1887–8.‡

(Exclusive of recoups and advances to be recouped.)

	£	s.	d.
Receipts - - -	7,607,597	14	3
Expenditure - - -	7,287,151	2	1
Receipts in excess of expenditure - - -	320,446	12	2
Credit balance from 1886–7 -	628,311	12	5
Credit balance carried forward to 1888–9 - - -	948,758	4	7

* Estimated.

† Exclusive of Maori inhabitants and Maori members, the former of whom number 42,000, and the latter 4.

‡ According to a statement distributed to members of the Legislative Assembly in July, 1889, by the Honourable the Treasurer the revenue of 1888–9 was 8,674,710*l.*, and the expenditure was 8,015,909*l.*, the former thus exceeding the latter by 658,801*l.*, which amount being added to the balance at the beginning of the financial year gives a credit balance of 1,607,559*l.* to be carried forward. The estimated mean population of the same 12 months was 1,085,630; so that the revenue per head, was 7*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure per head 7*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* It was understood that the figures in the statement referred to were not final.

Large surplus of revenue, 1887–8.

102. It is thus shown that during the financial year under review there was a surplus of revenue amounting to 320,446*l.*, which being added to a credit balance of 628,312*l.* brought forward from 1886–7, a total is arrived at of 948,758*l.* to be carried forward to 1888–9. This exceeds by fully 300,000*l.*, the largest credit balance ever previously remaining in Victoria at the end of any financial year.

Revenue, 1886–7 and 1887–8 compared.

103. The total revenue raised in 1887–8 was nearly 900,000*l.* in excess of that in the previous year; but by making allowances for receipts from sources not common to both years, as shown in the last paragraph, the excess is reduced to 726,000*l.*, thus :—

Comparative Revenues, 1886–7 *and* 1887–8.

	1886–87.	1887–88.
	£	£
Revenue proper (*i.e.*, exclusive of recoups, &c.) - - - - -	6,733,826	7,607,598
Deduct amounts from sources not common to both years - - - -	—	148,000
Comparative amounts - - -	6,733,826	7,459,598

Revenue, 1887–8 and previous years.

104. The revenue of 1887–8 was by far the largest ever raised in Victoria. It exceeded the revenue of 1886–7, which was the year in which the largest revenue had previously been realised, by nearly 900,000*l.*, as already stated, and exceeded the revenue of 1885–6, which was the year in which the next highest revenue had been raised, by 1,150,000*l.* In the 11 years ended with the year under review the revenue increased from 4,500,000*l.* to 7,600,000*l.*, or by 69 per cent., the population during the same period having increased by only about 27 per cent.

Expenditure, 1887–8 and former years.

105. The expenditure of 1887–8 was also much above that of any previous year, it being larger than in 1886–7, the year in which the next largest expenditure occurred, by over 781,000*l.* Prior to 1853 the annual expenditure never exceeded one million sterling; from 1853 to 1872–3 it was usually nearly up to or slightly over three millions; from 1873–4 to 1879–80 it was between four and four and three-quarter millions; from 1880–81 to 1883–4 it ranged from five to nearly five and three-quarter millions, and from 1884–5 to 1887–8 it increased from six to over seven and a quarter millions sterling.

Heads of revenue, 1885–6 and 1887–8.

106. The various sources from which the revenue of Victoria is derived may be grouped in five main divisions, viz. :—Taxation, Crown Lands, Railways and other Reproductive Public Works, Post and Telegraphs, and other sources. In 1887–8, 3,071,000*l.*, or 40½ per cent., was derived from taxation; 656,000*l.*, or 8½ per

VICTORIA.

cent., from Crown lands; 3,467,000*l.*, or 45½ per cent., from what may be termed the commercial undertakings of the Government, viz.:—Public Works and Post and Telegraphs, to which the State Railways contributed as much as 2,741,000*l.*, or 36 per cent. of the total revenue; whilst the balance, amounting to 413,000*l.*, or about 5½ per cent. of the whole, was derived from other sources. Of the land revenue, amounting to 656,000*l.*, by far the greater proportion, or 7¼ per cent. of the total revenue, was derived from the sale of public land, which being a receipt arising from the realisation of one of the most valuable assets of the country is obviously not a permanent source of income. Portion of this amount is now properly treated as capital, for, on reference to the statement of expenditure, it will be seen that a sum of 118,000*l.* was paid towards the construction of railways as directed by the Land Act, 1884, which provides that all proceeds arising from the sale of public lands by auction shall be paid to the credit of the Railway Construction Account. In 1887–8, however, the amount so paid represented barely one-fifth of the total proceeds from land sales, the great bulk of land alienated being disposed of otherwise than at auction. The following is a statement of the amounts received under various heads in each of those divisions during the last two financial years, together with the increase or decrease under each head:—

Heads of Revenue, 1886–7 *and* 1887–8.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts Received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1886-7.	1887-8.		
TAXATION.	£	£	£	£
Customs duties (including also wharfage rates)	2,132,361	2,353,050	220,689	—
Excise	120,701	128,369	7,668	—
Ports and harbours (chiefly tonnage dues)	34,920	34,327	—	593
Licences (business)	18,898	21,002	2,104	—
Duties on estates of deceased persons	114,909	151,861	36,952	—
Duties on bank notes	28,104	27,879	—	225
Stamp duty	165,000	230,000	65,000	—
Land tax	124,742	124,515	—	227
Total	2,739,635	3,071,003	331,368	—
LAND REVENUE.				
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money)	504,734	549,149	44,415	—
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money)	81,562	106,817	25,255	—
Penalties under Land Acts	795	301	—	494
Total	587,091	656,267	69,176	—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended. 1886-7.	Amounts Expended. 1887-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
PUBLIC WORKS.	£	£	£	£
Railways - - - - -	2,453,345	2,741,488	288,143	—
Water supply - - - -	215,401	235,743	20,342	—
Other public works - - -	5,062	4,764	—	298
Total - - - -	2,673,808	2,981,995	308,187	—
POST AND TELEGRAPHS.				
Postal receipts, &c. - - -	303,762	354,796	51,034	—
Telegraph receipts, &c. - - -	109,773	130,737	20,964	—
Total - - - -	413,535	485,533	71,998	—
OTHER SOURCES.				
Mint charges - - - -	11,058	10,377	—	681
„ subsidy returned - - -	1,986	3,874	1,888	—
Fees, fines, &c. (inclusive of fee stamps) -	131,095	164,721	33,626	—
Interest on public account - - -	93,216	136,811	43,595	—
Rents (other than Crown lands) - -	5,049	2,908	—	2,141
Reimbursements in aid - - -	54,033	69,041	15,008	—
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	23,320	25,068	1,748	—
Total - - - -	319,757	412,800	93,043	—
Grand Total - - -	6,733,826	7,607,598	873,772	—

Heads of expenditure, 1886-7 and 1887-8.

107. Of the total expenditure of Victoria in 1887–8, 1,208,000*l.*, or 16⅔ per cent., was disbursed to defray the cost of Government, maintenance of law and order, and provision against foreign attacks; 722,000*l.*, or 10 per cent., was contributed towards public instruction and the advancement and dissemination of knowledge; 279,000*l.*, or nearly 4 per cent., was expended on public charities or devoted to the preservation of the public health; 106,000*l.*, or nearly 1½ per cent., was expended on the management and survey of Crown lands, being slightly less than the gross annual rental therefrom during the financial year; as much as 3,536,000*l.*, or 48 per cent., was absorbed in connexion with working the various commercial undertakings of the Government, viz., 1,622,000*l.* on railways and waterworks, 643,000*l.* on post and telegraphs, and 1,271,000*l.* in interest upon loans raised for their construction; 114,000*l.* was paid as interest on amounts borrowed for the construction of other public works; 84,000*l.* was the cost of collecting the revenue from Customs duties and Excise; 32,000*l.* was spent on the maintenance of ports and harbours; and 188,000*l.*, or 2½ per cent., was granted in aid of the agricultural and mining industries. The amounts just enumerated, together with 131,000*l.* expended on miscellaneous services, form the ordinary annual expenditure for the year; but besides this an amount of 837,000*l.*, or 11½ per cent. of the total expenditure, was spent on productive and unproductive public works of a permanent character, viz.,

VICTORIA.

118,000*l.* on railways and 719,000*l.* on "miscellaneous public works," which embraces the cost of erection of public offices and buildings of all kinds, expenditure on roads and bridges, and municipal subsidies. These amounts appear as a set-off against the proceeds of land sales before referred to, which they even exceeded by 287,000*l.* The following is a classification of the expenditure under 9 principal and 26 subsidiary heads, during the years 1886–7 and 1887–8, also the increase or decrease in the latter year:—

Heads of Expenditure, 1886–7 *and* 1887–8.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1886-7.	1887-8.		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT.	£	£	£	£
Civil list	36,416	45,361	8,945	—
Legislature	57,202	58,631	1,429	—
Civil establishment	129,001	132,983	3,982	—
Retiring allowances and pensions	85,160	88,484	3,324	—
Gratuities, compensations, &c.	40,237	43,329	3,092	—
Total	348,016	368,788	20,772	—
LAW, ORDER, AND PROTECTION.				
Judicial and legal	193,905	211,111	17,206	—
Police	233,173	240,840	7,667	—
Gaols and penal establishments	59,894	65,385	5,491	—
Defences—Naval and Military	304,764	322,119	17,355	—
Total	791,736	839,455	47,719	—
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CHARITY, &c.				
Public instruction, science, &c.	676,569	722,102	45,533	—
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	268,864	278,879	10,015	—
Total	945,433	1,000,981	55,548	—
CROWN LANDS.				
Administration and survey	111,969	106,408	—	5,561
Agriculture, &c.	71,552	69,947	—	1,605
Mining	103,654	117,837	14,183	—
Total	287,175	294,192	7,017	—
PUBLIC WORKS.				
Railways—Working expenses	1,363,587	1,574,786	211,199	—
„ Construction account	67,529	118,090	50,561	—
Water supply	39,756	46,966	7,210	—
Other public works	671,973	718,427	46,454	—
Total	2,142,845	2,458,269	315,424	—
Post and telegraphs	585,990	643,113	57,123	—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended. 1886-7.	Amounts Expended. 1887-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
PUBLIC DEBT.	£	£	£	£
Interest and expenses—Railways -	985,308	1,070,950	85,642	—
„ „ Water supply	173,751	199,718	25,967	—
„ „ Other works	111,750	114,453	2,703	—
Total - - -	1,270,809	1,385,121	114,312	—
TRADE, NAVIGATION, &c.				
Customs - - - -	78,579	83,975	5,396	—
Harbours and lights -	39,819	32,460	—	7,359
Total - - -	118,398	116,435	—	1,963
OTHER EXPENDITURE.				
Mint subsidy - - - -	20,000	20,000	—	—
Aborigines - - - -	10,508	10,982	474	—
Miscellaneous services - -	40,341	149,815	109,474	—
Total - - - -	70,849	180,797	109,948	—
Grand Total - -	6,561,251	7,287,151	725,900	—

108. In addition to the ordinary expenditure from revenue, large sums are annually disbursed for various purposes from amounts raised by means of loans. The following table shows the details of such expenditure prior to 1882–3 and during each subsequent year :— Expenditure of loans, &c.

Expenditure of Net Proceeds of Loans to 30th June 1888.

Purposes of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended. Prior to 1882-83.	1882-3.	1883-4.	1884-5.	1885-6.	1886-7.	1887-8.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways - -	16,376,868	2,187,183	1,191,132	848,358	1,401,511	1,521,817	1,742,149	25,269,018
Water supply -	3,368,558	367,416	304,585	172,465	235,485	373,994	462,562	5,285,06
Law courts and Parliament Houses -	345,901	44,860	45,505	568	12,153	32,770	44,954	526,711
Public offices -	162,280	—	—	—	—	—	—	62,280
Defences - -	98,299	—	—	—	—	—	—	98,299
State school buildings - - -	804,926	56,651	36,923	69,995	45,438	49,284	54,308	1,117,525
Yarra bridge - -	1,500	300	8,382	3,663	14,205	42,561	32,627	103,238
Alfred graving dock	341,819	—	—	—	—	—	—	341,819
Harbour works, &c.	—	400	13,706	46,077	20,976	47,856	53,344	182,359
Total - -	21,500,151	2,656,810	1,600,233	1,141,126	1,729,768	2,068,282	2,389,944	33,086,314

VICTORIA.

Heads of Revenue of Australasian Colonies.

109. The following is a comparative statement of the amounts received, under various heads of revenue, in the respective Australasian Colonies during the most recent years for which the particulars are available. The figures have all been derived from official sources.

Heads of Revenue in Australasian Colonies, 1887.

Heads of Revenue.	Victoria, 1887-8.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Taxation :— Customs, &c. -	2,353,050	2,011,947	1,084,709	467,889	170,972	274,065	1,273,236
Other taxes -	717,953	652,601	254,129	180,756	17,939	101,436	602,999
Total - -	3,071,003	2,664,548	1,338,838	648,645	188,911	375,501	1,876,235
Crown lands -	656,267	2,378,995	580,903	191,971	76,929	65,886	284,356
Railways - -	2,741,488	2,285,836	710,458	674,419	41,104	53,074	990,395
Post and telegraphs	485,533	524,298	197,779	194,995	23,488	46,317	241,501
Other sources -	653,307	729,134	204,485	304,072	47,471	54,198	71,008
Total - -	7,607,598	8,582,811	3,032,463	2,014,012	377,903	594,976	3,463,495
	Proportions per cent.						
Taxation :— Customs, &c. -	30·93	23·44	35·77	23·24	45·25	46·07	36·76
Other taxes -	9·44	7·61	8·38	8·97	4·75	17·05	17·41
Total - -	40·37	31·05	44·15	32·21	50·00	63·12	54·17
Crown lands -	8·63	27·72	19·16	9·53	20·35	11·07	8·21
Railways - -	36·04	26·63	23·43	33·48	10·88	8·92	28·60
Post and telegraphs	6·38	6·11	6·52	9·6	6·21	7·78	6·97
Other sources -	8·58	8·49	6·74	15·10	12·56	9·11	2·05
Total - -	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

NOTE.—The figures of revenue and expenditure for Victoria are for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1888, but those for the other colonies are for the calendar year. Refunds of revenue, drawbacks, and such similar entries, are rigidly excluded from the accounts of revenue and expenditure of Victoria, but are included in those of New South Wales and some of the other colonies.

Sources of revenue in Australasia.

110. Of the 24¾ millions sterling which formed the total revenue of the Australasian Colonies in 1887 nearly 10 millions or about two-fifths was raised by taxation, chiefly through the Customs; nearly 7¼ millions or something less than one-third, was derived from railways; over four millions from Crown lands; and about 1⅔ millions from post and telegraphs. The following are the

exact figures, also the amounts per head, distinguishing those relating to Continental Australia from those relating to Australasian Colonies taken as a whole :—

Heads of Revenue in Australia and Australasia, 1887.

Heads of Revenue.	Continent of Australia.		Australia with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Proportions per cent.	Amount.	Proportions per cent.
Taxation—	£		£	
Customs - -	5,867,878	28·29	7,415,179	29·90
Other taxes - -	1,712,699	8·26	2,417,134	9·75
Total - -	7,580,577	36·55	9,832,313	39·65
Crown lands - -	3,815,889	18·40	4,166,131	16·80
Railways - -	6,165,162	29·73	7,208,631	29·97
Posts and telegraphs -	1,354,095	6·52	1,641,913	6·62
Other sources - -	1,825,382	8·80	1,950,588	7·86
Total - -	20,741,105	100·00	24,799,576	100·00

Heads of expenditure of Australasian Colonies.

111. The following is a comparative statement of the amounts expended under a few of the principal heads in the respective Colonies during the most recent year for which the particulars are available :—

Heads of Expenditure in Australasian Colonies, 1887.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Victoria. (1887-8.)	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways (working expenses).	1,574,786	1,457,761	534,381	409,128	47,712	80,752	653,363
Post and telegraphs -	643,113	633,813	323,477	177,093	40,298	61,306	270,996
Interest and expenses of public debt, &c.	1,385,121	1,693,926	942,815	710,030	65,840	182,571	1,499,784
Immigration - -	5	31,534	—	9,989	17,000	449	—
Other services -	3,684,126	5,281,426	1,549,376	838,895	286,047	343,681	1,530,147
Total - -	7,287,151	9,098,460	3,350,049	2,145 135	456,897	668,759	3,954,290

* The figures for Victoria are for the year ended 30th June 1888, those for the other colonies for the year ended 31st December 1887.

VICTORIA.

Heads of expenditure in Australasia.

112. The following is a summary of the aggregate expenditure under the various heads referred to for Australia and Australasia :—

Heads of Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1887.

Heads of Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per cent.	Amount.	Amount per cent.
	£		£	
Railways (working expenses) - -	3,812,569	17·64	4,546,684	17·34
Post and telegraphs -	1,760,671	8·15	2,092,973	7·98
Interest on public debt, &c.	4,683,420	21·67	6,365,775	24·26
Immigration - -	58,523	·27	58,972	·22
Other services - -	11,296,609	52·27	13,170,437	50·20
Total - -	21,611,792	100·00	26,234,841	100·00

NOTE.—The amounts in this table are summarized from statements of the various Colonies for the year ended 31st December 1887, except in the case of Victoria, for which Colony the amounts for the year ended 30th June 1887, have been taken.

Loan expenditure in Australasian Colonies. 1887.

113. In addition to the expenditure of amounts derived from the general revenue, as shown in the last two tables, all the colonies spend large sums of borrowed money, chiefly on railways and water works, but also, in some instances, on the construction of electric telegraphs, harbour works and lighthouses, defence works, roads and bridges, school buildings, and other public works, and on immigration. The following table shows the total loan expenditure of the various Colonies during 1887, also the amounts per head :—

Expenditure from Loans in Australasian Colonies, 1887.

Name of Colony.	Expenditure from Loans during 1887.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.
Victoria - - - -	2,087,960	2 1 8
New South Wales - - - -	1,979,504	1 18 9
Queensland - - - - -	1,895,607	5 6 10
South Australia - - - -	1,222,482	3 18 0
Western Australia - - - -	204,649	4 18 2
Total - -	7,390,202	2 14 0
Tasmania - - - - -	379,586	2 14 3
New Zealand - - - -	1,980,650	3 6 5
Grand Total - -	9,750,438	2 16 2

NOTE.—In this table the figures for Victoria relate to the year ended 30th June, 1887, those for the other Colonies to that ended 31st December.

Loan expenditure of different Colonies compared.

114. It will be observed that the aggregate loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies, in 1887 was about $9\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling. Victoria spending rather over, and New Zealand, New South Wales, and Queensland rather less than, 2,000,000*l.* It will be noticed that the loan expenditure per head of population was much lower in New South Wales and Victoria, but much higher in Queensland and Western Australia than in any other Colony.

Heads of loan expenditure in Australia and Australasia.

115. Of the loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies during 1887, two-thirds was spent in the construction of railways: nearly one-eleventh on waterworks; five per cent. in connection with harbours, rivers, &c.; $3\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on roads and bridges; $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the introduction of immigrants; and the balance, (about 17 per cent.) for other services. The following are the total and proportionate amounts expended under each of these heads in Australia and Australasia respectively during 1887:—

Heads of Loan Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1887.

Heads of Loan Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per cent.	Amount.	Amount per cent.
	£		£	
Railways - - -	5,211,145	70·51	6,229,130	63·89
Water supply - -	867,093	11·74	867,093	8·89
Roads and bridges - -	98,076	1·33	328,705	3·37
Harbours, rivers, lighthouses, &c. - - - -	264,205	3·58	491,210	5·04
Immigration - - -	151,440	2·04	172,053	1·76
Other services - -	798,243	10·80	1,662,247	17·05
Total - -	7,390,202	100·00	9,750,438	100·00

Public debt.

116. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1888* to 34,627,382*l.*, consisting of moneys:—

	£
Borrowed in Victoria - -	1,529,482
,, England - -	33,097,900
Total - -	34,627,382

* On the 30th June 1889, the public debt amounted to 37,627,382*l.*

VICTORIA.

Purposes for which loans were incurred.

117. The aggregate amount of the loans raised up to the 30th June 1888 was 44,547,702*l.*; but a total of 9,920,320*l.* having been repaid, viz., 2,103,100*l.* out of the general revenue, and 7,817,220*l.* out of the proceeds of redemption loans, the balance outstanding on the 30th June 1888 was reduced to 34,627,382*l.* The amount of public debt borrowed under each of the purposes for which the debt was incurred, the amount paid off, and the amount outstanding on the 30th June 1888, are shown in the following table:—

Purposes for which Loans were Raised.

Purposes.	Total Amount Borrowed.	Amount Paid off	Amount Outstanding on 30th June 1888.
	£	£	£
Railways - - - -	26,493,806	68,100	26,425,706
Water supply—			
Melbourne - - - -	2,364,934	800,000	1,564,934
Country - - -	3,780,216	—	3,780,216
Law courts and Parliament houses -	600,713	—	600,713
Public offices - - - -	166,195	—	166,195
Defences - - - -	100,000	—	100,000
State schools - - - -	1,105,557	—	1,105,557
Yarra Bridge - - - -	108,043	—	108,043
Harbours, &c. - - - -	275,554	—	275,554
Graving-dock - - - -	350,464	—	350,464
Tramways in country districts - -	150,000	—	150,000
Melbourne and Geelong improvements -	735,000	735,000	—
Treasury bonds - - - -	500,000	500,000	—
	36,730,482	2,103,100	34,627,382
Redemption of loans - - -	7,817,220	7,817,220	—
Total - - -	44,547,702	9,920,320	34,627,382

Rates of interest.

118. Over two-thirds of the public debt bears interest at 4 per cent., and the balance at higher rates up to 6 per cent. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the public debt of Victoria was composed on the 30th June 1888:—

Rates of Interest.	Amount at each Rate.
	£
6 per cent. - - - -	1,256,100
5 per cent. - - - -	2,603,800
4½ per cent. - - - -	5,000,000
4 per cent. - - - -	25,767,482
Total - -	34,627,382

Interest on debt.

119. More than two-thirds of the interest on the debt is payable in July and January, and the remainder in October and April. About nineteen-twentieths of the interest is payable in London, and the remainder in Melbourne. The following table shows the

amounts payable during the ensuing financial year at those times and places on the debt existing on the 30th June 1888:—

Interest on Public Debt.

Rate per Cent.	When Due.	Amount payable Annually— In Melbourne.	In London.	Total.
		£	£	£
6	July and January - -	—	51,000	51,000
5	„ „ - -	15,645	105,350	120,995
4½	„ „ - -	—	225,000	225,000
4	„ „ - -	—	598,280	598,280
	Total - -	15,645	979,630	995,275
6	October and April - -	24,366	—	24,366
4	„ „ - -	32,419	400,000	432,419
	Total - -	96,785	400,000	456,785
		72,430	1,379,630	1,452,060
	Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Debentures.	1,460	7,735	9,195
	Grand Total - -	73,890	1,378,365	1,461,255

NOTE.—The figures in this table represent the amounts of interest payable in 1888–9 on the debt (viz., 34,627,382) as it stood at the commencement of that year. The fresh loan raised in January, 1889, will add 105,000*l.* per annum to the interest payable, but the first half-yearly instalment does not accrue until 1888–9. On the other hand, a 4 per cent. redemption loan of 130,000*l.*, which will replace a 6 per cent. loan, falling due on 1st October 1888, will reduce the annual interest by 2,600*l.*

Debts of Australasian Colonies.

120. The following table shows the total amount of debt, and the indebtedness per head, in Victoria and the other Australasian Colonies on the 31st December 1887; also the number of years' revenue the debt of each Colony was equal to at that date:—

Public Debts of the Australasian Colonies, 1887.

Colony.	On the 31st December. Total Amount of Debt.	Amount of Indebtedness per Head.	Number of Years' Revenue Debt is equal to.
	£	£ s. d.	
Victoria - - - -	33,127,382	31 19 5	4·92
New South Wales - - -	40,995,350	39 6 2	4·78
Queensland - - -	23,320,850	63 11 1	7·69
South Australia - -	19,168,500	60 7 8	9·52
Western Australia - - -	1,280,700	30 2 10	3·39
Tasmania - - - -	4,109,370	28 16 10	6·91
New Zealand - - -	38,225,537	63 7 1	11·04

NOTE.—The following colonies have floated loans in London since the 31st December, 1887:—Victoria, 1,500,000*l.* in January, 1888, and 3,000,000*l.* in January, 1889; New South Wales, 3,500,000*l.* in April, 1888, and 3,500,000*l.* in July, 1889; Queensland, 2,500,000*l.* in July, 1888; South Australia, 1,317,800*l.*, early in 1889; Western Australia, 100,000*l.* in July, 1889; Tasmania, 1,000,000*l.* in April, 1889; New Zealand, 2,000,000*l.* in June, 1888.

VICTORIA.

Public debt of Australia and Australasia.

121. If the amounts of debt shown in the table be added together, it will be found that the aggregate debt of the Colonies on the continent of Australia was nearly 118 millions, being 6⅔ millions more than in 1886; and the aggregate debt of Australia, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, was over 160 millions sterling, being 7 millions more than in 1886. The following are the exact figures, also the proportion of indebtedness per head of the population, and the proportion the aggregate debt bore to the aggregate revenue of the Colonies within the same limits:—

Public Debt of Australia and Australasia, 1887.

—	Public Debt.		
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.
	£	£ s. d.	Per cent.
Continent of Australia - - -	117,892,782	42 0 4	5·68
Ditto with Tasmania and New Zealand - - - - -	160,227,689	45 2 3	6·46

Imports, exports, and trade.

122. In 1888 the total declared value of the imports was 23,972,134*l.*, and that of the exports 13,853,763*l.*; the excess of imports over exports was thus 10,118,371*l.*, and the whole value of external trade was 37,825,897*l.*

Imports and exports last two years.

123. The value of imports was higher in 1888 than in 1887 by 4,949,983*l.*, or by 26 per cent.; and the value of exports was higher than in that year by 2,502,618*l.*, or 22 per cent. The value of the total trade was thus greater than in the previous year by 7,452,601*l.*

Imports and exports in latest and former years.

124. The imports in 1888, as indicated by their values, were higher than in any other year of the Colony's history; the exports, however, according to the same standard, were exceeded in 20 out of the last 33 years.

Imports and exports per head, 1851–88.

125. In the year under review the value per head of imports was 22*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, or 3*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* higher than in 1887; and the value per head of exports was 13*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, or 1*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* higher than in 1887.

126. The total value and value per head of imports and exports in 1887 are given in the following table for the different Australasian Colonies:—

Imports and exports of Australasian Colonies.

Imports and Exports of Australasian Colonies, 1887.

Colony.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value per Head.	Total Value.	Value per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Victoria - - -	19,022,151	18 13 1	11,351,145	11 2 8
New South Wales -	18,806,236	18 7 10	18,496,917	18 1 10
Queensland - -	5,821,611	16 8 2	6,453,945	18 3 10
South Australia - -	5,096,293	16 5 3	5,330,780	17 0 3
Western Australia -	666,344	15 19 7	604,655	14 10 0
Tasmania - -	1,596,817	11 8 4	1,449,371	10 7 3
New Zealand - -	6,245,515	10 9 5	6,866,169	11 10 3

127. The imports and exports of the Colonies on the Australian continent, taken as a whole, also the imports and exports of those Colonies with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, will be found in the following table for the year 1887:—

External trade in Australia and Australasia.

Imports and Exports of Australia and Australasia, 1887.
(*Inclusive of the Intercolonial Trade.*)

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value per Head.	Total Value.	Value per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Continent of Australia -	49,412,635	17 19 1	42,237,442	15 7 0
Continent of Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand - -	57,254,967	16 8 3	50,552,982	14 9 10

VICTORIA.

Imports of principal articles, 1888.

128. The values of 66 of the principal articles imported by Victoria in 1888 will be found in the following table:—

Articles.	Value of Imports, 1888.	Articles.	Value of Imports, 1888.
	£		£
Apparel and slops	461,806	Linen, piece goods	52,526
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks).	328,892	Live stock	2,040,213
Beer, cider, and perry	298,781	Machinery (including steam engines and boilers).	310,787
Books	245,752	Manufactures of metal	241,680
Boots and shoes	135,702	Matches and vestas	47,649
Building materials	230,442	Meats (fresh, preserved, and salted).	27,057
Butter and cheese	4,361	Musical instruments	103,845
Candles	38,706	Nails and screws	58,432
Carpeting and druggeting	125,925	Oil of all kinds	276,930
Coal	617,325	Oilmen's stores	36,344
Coffee	60,504	Opium	36,364
Cottons	1,129,334	Ordnance stores	228,203
Cutlery	33,865	Paints and colours	83,570
Drugs and chemicals	109,473	Paper (including paper bags)	364,685
Earthenware, brownware, chinaware, and porcelain.	119,983	Plated ware	88,277
Fancy goods	94,262	Sewing machines	33,931
Fish	180,946	Silks	416,220
Flour and biscuit	12,395	Specie—Gold	497,493
Fruit (including currants and raisins).	263,871	„ Other	68,352
Furniture and upholstery	89,196	Spirits	482,858
Glass and glassware	189,756	Stationery	123,628
Gloves	121,584	Sugar and molasses	945,978
Gold (exclusive of specie)	461,552	Tea	777,243
Grain—Wheat	18,837	Timber	1,420,349
„ Oats	153,540	Tin	57,283
„ Other (including malt and rice).	147,641	Tobacco, cigars, snuff	342,871
Haberdashery	470,673	Tools and utensils	46,140
Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized ironware).	238,394	Watches, clocks, and watch-makers' materials.	101,595
Hats, caps and bonnets	133,001	Wine	184,621
Hides, skins and pelts	188,241	Woodenware	70,712
Hops	30,491	Wool*	2,704,060
Hosiery	174,465	Woollens and woollen piece goods.	923,549
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, telegraph wire, &c.).	977,928	Total	21,456,282
Jewellery	74,967	All other articles	2,515,852
Lead, ore, pig, pipe, sheet	46,154	Total imports	23,972,134
Leather, leatherware, and leathern cloth.	254,092		

* Including the value of wool imported into Victoria across the Murray.

Exports of principal articles, 1888.

129. The exports from Victoria of 50 of the principal articles are in like manner given for the same year :—

Articles.	Value of Exports, 1888.	Articles.	Value of Exports, 1888.
	£		£
Antimony — Ore, regulus, &c.	19	Live stock - - -	406,777
Apparel and slops - -	171,816	Machinery (including steam engines and boilers).	99,272
Bags and sacks - -	38,364	Manufactures of metals -	33,079
Bark - - -	41,401	Meats — Fresh and preserved.	20,466
Bones and bone dust -	11,887	„ Salted (bacon, beef, hams, and pork).	12,511
Books - - -	58,044		
Boots and shoes - -	44,201		
Butter and cheese - -	68,933		
Candles - - -	11,115	Oil of all kinds - -	28,290
Coffee - - -	16,273	Onions - - -	40,678
Copper—Ore, regulus, &c. -	1,245	Potatoes - -	94,301
Cottons - - -	82,823	Silks - - -	44,297
Flour and biscuit - -	422,992	Skins and pelts - -	186,761
Fruits (including currants and raisins).	50,462	Soap - - -	17,496
		Spirits - - -	88,919
Gold (exclusive of specie) -	166,877	Stationery - - -	27,863
Specie—Gold - -	3,523,642	Sugar and molasses -	142,715
„ Silver - -	16,600	Tallow - - -	157,601
Grain—Wheat - -	515,016	Tea - - -	355,652
„ Oats - -	5,551	Timber - - -	29,985
„ Other(including malt and rice).	25,385	Tin, tin ore, and black sand	4,301
		Tobacco, cigars, and snuff -	109,650
Haberdashery - -	56,969	Travellers' samples -	61,222
Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized iron-ware).	32,834	Wine - - -	61,119
		Wool* - - -	5,170,930
		Woollens and woollen piece goods.	89,344
Hay, straw, and chaff -	134,971		
Hides - - -	17,136		
Horns and hoofs - -	1,691	Total - -	13,052,268
Iron and steel - -	53,535	All other articles - -	801,495
Leather, leatherware, and leathern cloth.	199,257		
		Total exports -	13,853,763

Steam and sailing vessels.

130. The steamers and sailing vessels which entered and left Victorian ports in 1888, together with their tonnage and crews, were as follows :—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1888.

Description of Vessels.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
INWARDS.			
Steamers - - - -	1,894	1,644,873	75,143
Sailing vessels - - - -	830	537,198	10,736
Total - -	2,724	2,182,071	85,879
OUTWARDS.			
Steamers - - - -	1,871	1,659,857	75,289
Sailing vessels - - - -	759	465,955	8,944
Total - -	2,630	2,125,812	84,233

* Including wool from across the Murray, which is also included in the returns of imports *ante*.

VICTORIA.

Crews in steam and sailing vessels.

131. By means of the figures in the foregoing table it is ascertained that, whilst steamers had one man to every 22 tons, sailing vessels had but one man to every 51 tons.

Postal returns.

132. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. It will be noticed that whilst in 1888, as compared with 1887, the letters and newspapers increased by less than a sixth, the packets increased by about a fifth :—

Postal Returns, 1887 *and* 1888.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.	News-papers.	Packets.	Total.
1887 - - -	1,492	41,287,972	18,869,055	7,670,615	67,827,642
1888 - - -	1,544	47,700,776	21,702,876	9,090,362	78,494,014
Increase -	52	6,412,804	2,833,821	1,419,747	10,666,372

Proportion of letters per head.

133. The letters despatched and received were, to each head of the population, in the proportion of 40½ in 1887, and of 45 in 1888.

Electric telegraphs.

134. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 601 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand; also with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with Western Australia, the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America; also with a submarine cable to Tasmania. During 1888 the telegraph stations were increased by 86, the lines were extended by 79 miles, and the number of telegrams increased by more than a fifth. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table :—

Electric Telegraphs, 1887 *and* 1888.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of—		Number of Telegrams.		
		Line (poles).	Wire.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.
1887 - -	515	4,115	10,175	2,176,915	83,565	2,260,480
1888 - -	601	4,194	10,360	2,653,000	90,938	2,743,938
Increase -	86	79	185	476,085	7,373	483,458

Additional lines and wires.

135. Besides the above, there were in operation 231 miles of line and about 3,014½ miles of wire for private wires and telephone lines. There were also nearly 37½ miles of aërial cable, having a length of wire of 787½ miles; moreover, 6¾ miles of underground cable had been laid, giving a length of wire of 321½ miles.

Railways, length.

136. The number of miles of railway open on the 30th June 1888 was 2,017¾, consisting of 1,771 miles of single and 246¾ miles of double line.

Miles open and travelled.

137. By the following statement of the number of miles open and the number of train miles travelled, and of the passengers and goods carried during the financial years 1886–7 and 1887–8, it is shown that a considerable increase took place in all the items, the train mileage and passenger traffic having increased by between 13 and 14 per cent., and the goods traffic by nearly 20 per cent.:—

Railways.—Miles Open and Travelled, and Passengers and Goods Carried, 1886–7 *and* 1887–8.*

Year.	Average Extent Opened.	Train Mileage.	Passengers.	Goods and Live Stock.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Tons.
1886–7 - - -	1,791	7,991,378	49,219,857	2,972,761
1887–8 - - -	1,947	9,082,312	55,911,394	3,564,043
Increase - -	156	1,090,934	6,691,537	591,282

Receipts and working expenses.

138. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during the financial years 1886–7 and 1887–8:—

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1886–1887, *and* 1887–8.†

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Net Income.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods and Live Stock.	Sundries.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per Cent.
1887 -	1,078,693	1,193,582	180,803	2,453,078	1,427,116	1,025,962	58·18
1888 -	1,200,046	1,358,999	197,004	2,756,049	1,753,019‡	1,003,030	63·61
Increase -	121,353	165,417	16,201	302,971	325,903	—	5·43
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	—	22,932	—

* During the year 1888–9, the train mileage was 10,680,743; the passengers carried numbered 68,904,427; and the quantity of goods and live stock carried was 4,160,126 tons.

† During the year 1888–9, the Railway Receipts amounted to 3,110,140*l.*, and the working expenses to 1,945,837*l.* The net income was thus 1,164,303*l.*, or 161,273*l.* more than that received in the previous year. The proportion of working expenses to receipts was 62·56 per cent.

‡ The whole cost of a serious accident which occurred in 1886–7, amounting to 128,988*l.*, is included in the working expenses of the year.

VICTORIA.

Proportion of income to capital cost.

139. The following is a statement of the proportion which the net earnings of the railways have borne to their capital cost during each of the last seven full financial years :—

	Per-centage of Capital Cost.
1881 - - - - -	4·083
1882 - - - - -	3·512
1883 - - - - -	2·958
1884–5 - - - - -	4·068
1885–6 - - - - -	4·356
1886–7 - - - - -	4·170
1887–8 - - - - -	3·816

Gauges of lines in Australasia.

140. All the Victorian lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 ft. 3 ins., which is also the national gauge in South Australia, but has not been adhered to in that colony, as 715 out of nearly 1,400 miles have been constructed upon a 3 ft. 6 ins. gauge. In New South Wales a 4 ft. 8½ ins. gauge has been adopted, but the private line of railway between Moama and Deniliquin, which is connected with the Victorian line from Sandhurst to Echuca, has been constructed upon a 5 ft. 3 ins. gauge. In Queensland, Western Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, all the railways have been constructed upon a gauge of 3 ft. 6 ins ; but in the last-named Colony 45 of the lines have been constructed upon a gauge of 5 ft. 3 ins., as well as the usual one of 3 ft. 6 ins.

Length, cost, and revenue of railways in each Colony.

141. The following is a statement of the length, capital cost, receipts, working expenses, and net revenue of the railways in each Australasian Colony during the year 1887 :—

Length, Capital Cost, Receipts, and Working Expenses of Railways in Australasian Colonies, 1887.*

Colony.	At end of the Year.		During the Year.		
	Number of Miles open.	Capital Cost.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
		£	£	£	£
Victoria - - - -	1,880	25,297,524	2,453,078	1,427,116	1,025,962
New South Wales - -	2,081	26,554,387	2,208,295	1,457,761	750,534
Queensland - - -	1,765	12,189,919	719,254	534,381	184,873
South Australia - - -	1,420	9,161,783	688,207	402,163	286,044
Western Australia - -	239	816,147	41,104	47,712	—6,608
Total - -	7,385	74,619,760	6,109,938	3,869,133	2,240,805
Tasmania - - - -	318	2,165,273	122,994	117,723	5,271
New Zealand - - -	1,841	13,352,978	994,843	687,328	307,515
Grand total -	9,544	89,538,011	7,227,775	4,674,184	2,553,591

* The figures of Victoria are for the year ended 30th June 1887, for New Zealand for the year ended 31st March 1888, and those for the other colonies for the year ended 31st December 1887.

142. The average cost of Government railways per mile, as deducted from the figures in the above table, ranges from 13,456*l.* in Victoria to 4,773*l.* in Western Australia. The following are the figures for each Colony:— VICTORIA. Cost per mile of railway in each Colony.

Capital Cost per Mile of Government Railways in each Colony.
(*At the end of* 1887.)

	£
1. Victoria - - - -	13,456
2. New South Wales - - -	13,042
3. Tasmania - - - -	8,020
4. New Zealand - - - -	7,617
5. Queensland - - - -	6,906
6. South Australia - - -	6,452
7. Western Australia - - -	4,773

143. The progress of railway extension on the continent of Australia, and on that continent with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand between 1870 and 1887, is shown in the following table. It will be observed that the length in 1887 in Australia was nearly eight times, and in Australasia over 10 times, as great as it was at the commencement of the period:— Railways in Australia and Australasia.

Railways in Australia and Australasia.

Year.	Miles of Railway Open on the 31st December.	
	Continent of Australia.	Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.
1870 - - - -	948	948
1875 - - - -	1,631	2,323
1880 - - - -	3,421	4,852
1885 - - - -	6,134	8,045
1886 - - - -	6,769	8,881
1887 - - - -	7,385	9,544

144. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872, and was opened to the public on the 12th June of that year. The premises occupy 2 acres 1 rood 26 perches of land, valued in October, 1880, at 8,500*l.* but now probably worth ten times that amount; the original cost of the buildings, machinery, fittings, and furniture was 68,350*l.* Royal Mint.

145. From the time of the opening of the Mint to the end of 1888, 10½ million ounces of gold were received thereat. In point of average purity the gold sent to the Mint is considerably above the standard (viz., 22 carats, worth £3 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz.), and thus the value of the whole quantity was 42 millions sterling, or Gold received at Mint.

VICTORIA.

about 4*l.* per oz. The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold received in each year :—

Gold Received at the Melbourne Mint, 1872 *to* 1888.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£
1872	190,738	764,917
1873	221,870	887,127
1874	335,318	1,349,102
1875	489,732	1,947,713
1876	543,199	2,149,481
1877	378,310	1,491,819
1878	569,932	2,267,431
1879	656,556	2,637,738
1880	758,721	3,061,820
1881	692,213	2,792,985
1882	818,905	3,310,971
1883	785,716	3,158,420
1884	945,429	3,802,229
1885	836,169	3,350,737
1886	756,249	3,028,374
1887	769,897	3,074,223
1888	757,548	3,022,384
Total	10,506,502	42,097,471

Gold issued from Mint.

146. Gold is issued from the Mint as coin or as bullion. The former, with the exception of 555,500 half-sovereigns, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. The following is a statement of the gold issued in each year, whether in the shape of coin or bullion :—

Gold Issued at Melbourne Mint, 1872 *to* 1888.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	Oz.	£	£
1872	748,000	—	1,205	3,611	751,611
1873	752,000	165,000	3,106	11,035	845,535
1874	1,373,000	—	2,912	10,417	1,383,417
1875	1,888,000	—	3,553	13,857	1,901,857
1876	2,124,000	—	3,625	14,145	2,138,145
1877	1,487,000	80,000	3,326	13,004	1,540,004
1878	2,171,000	—	3,691	14,640	2,185,640
1879	2,740,000	—	1,740	6,830	2,746,830
1880	3,052,800	—	1,861	7,219	3,060,019
1881	2,324,800	42,000	106,999	448,767	2,794,567
1882	2,465,250	107,500	189,837	789,687	3,308,687
1883	2,050,000	—	266,679	1,112,478	3,162,478
1884	2,942,000	48,000	200,766	835,728	3,801,728
1885	2,966,500	11,000	91,335	379,839	3,351,839
1886	2,901,500	38,000	25,701	107,719	3,028,219
1887	2,855,800	64,000	45,030	186,395	3,074,195
1888	2,830,000	—	46,611	194,219	3,024,219
Total	37,671,650	555,500	997,977	4,149,590	42,098,990

VICTORIA.

147. During 1888 there were 13 banks of issue in Victoria, possessing therein 492 branches or agencies. There were 12 banks of issue in the Colony in 1883, but 13 in 1878. Number of banks.

148. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same three years, was as follows:— Liabilities, assets, &c. of banks.

Financial Position of Banks, 1878, 1883, *and* 1888.

	1878.	1883.	1888.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£
Notes in circulation	1,281,134	1,426,686	1,728,032
Bills in circulation	60,133	50,205	121,637
Balances due to other banks	268,019	320,649	329,083
Deposits not bearing interest	4,602,578	5,995,543	11,177,705
„ bearing interest	11,504,003	18,063,626	26,393,133
Total	17,715,867	25,856,709	39,749,590
ASSETS.			
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	2,094,739	2,984,857	5,260,915
Gold and silver in bullion and bars	293,233	260,615	343,182
Landed property	872,079	988,215	1,581,854
Notes and bills of other banks	137,812	134,282	270,648
Balances due from other banks	267,993	380,401	329,229
Debts due to the banks	22,430,329	26,994,137	45,325,559
Total	26,096,185	31,742,597	53,111,387
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.			
Capital stock paid up	9,188,653	9,597,750	10,461,850
Average rate per annum of last dividend declared.	11·533 per cent.	11·273 per cent.	12·171 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared	529,856	540,982	686,665
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend.	2,950,743	3,233,073	5,507,689

149. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the principal Victorian banks for a period of 12 months ranged from 5½ to 6½ per cent. in 1878, remained at 6 per cent. in 1883, and stood at 4 per cent. during the first nine months and at 5 per cent. during the remaining three months of 1888. It may be mentioned that the rate on deposits for six months is usually 1 per cent. lower than that for 12 months, and the rate for three months 1 per cent. lower than that for six months. As a rule, no interest is allowed on deposits at call. Rates on interest on bank deposits.

150. In 1887 and the first nine months of 1888 extensive speculations took place in land, mining, and other securities, but these, which had no doubt been partly induced by the cheapness of money, only 4 per cent. being allowed by the banks on deposits Fluctuation in rate of interest on deposits.

VICTORIA.

for 12 months, were suddenly checked in October of the latter year by the rate being raised to 5 per cent. The 4 per cent. rate lasted for 14 months, that being the only period since 1881 in which the rate had been below 5 per cent. From the time of the rate being raised to October 1889, the rate has stood at 5 per cent. The following are the periods at which the changes in the rate of interest allowed by the banks on deposits have taken place since August 1880:—

Bank Rate of Interest on Deposits for Twelve Months, 1880 *to* 1889.

Date of Alteration.	Duration of Rate. (Months.)	Rate.
From August, 1880 - - -	6	4 per cent.
„ February, 1881 - - -	9	3 „
„ November, 1881 - - -	9	4 „
„ August, 1882 - - -	3	5 „
„ November, 1882 - - -	1	5½ „
„ December, 1882 - - -	19	6 „
„ July 8th, 1884 - - -	½	5½ „
„ July 25th, 1884 - - -	23	5 „
„ June 22nd, 1886 - - -	7	6 „
„ January 17th, 1887 - - -	7	5 „
„ August 12th, 1887 - - -	14	4 „
„ October 22nd, 1888 - - -	—	5 „

Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1889.

151. The following table contains particulars respecting the assets and liabilities of the banks in each of the Australasian Colonies at the end of the first quarter of 1889:—

Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1889.

(*Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended* 31*st March* 1889.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Victoria - - -	16	1,678,401	125,213	256,996	38,053,020	40,113,630
New South Wales - -	17	1,547,623	91,780	212,616	32,320,439	34,172,458
Queensland - -	11	674,718	27,889	113,293	11,299,232	12,115,132
South Australia - -	10	440,573	13,319	80,969	6,295,398	6,830,259
Western Australia -	4	52,681	3,461	4,851	816,697	877,690
Tasmania - - -	5	153,634	90,609	13,939	3,457,231	3,715,413
New Zealand - -	6	872,673	47,579	29,907	11,310,326	12,260,485
Total - -	69	5,420,303	399,850	712,571	103,552,343	110,085,067

Colony.	Assets.					
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	All debts due to Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria - - -	6,122,188	1,610,222	252,586	417,347	46,839,046	55,241,389
New South Wales - -	5,092,264	1,450,445	272,012	2,283,658*	38,513,125	47,611,504
Queensland - -	2,206,014	654,266	19,947	142,935	17,561,819	20,584,981
South Australia - -	1,514,926	428,975	37,152	292,453	8,528,281	10,801,787
Western Australia -	289,574	82,246	3,692	5,267	1,313,919	1,694,698
Tasmania - - -	608,456	110,980	—	124,966	3,108,118	3,952,520
New Zealand - -	2,225,666	544,381	36,444	111,560	14,709,149	17,627,200
Total - -	18,059,088	4,881,515	621,833	3,378,186	130,573,457	157,514,079

152. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and their proportion to population, also the total and average amount standing to their credit, in the savings banks of the various Australasian Colonies at the end of 1888:— Savings banks in Australasian Colonies.

Savings Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1888.
(*Including both General and Post Office Savings Banks.*)

Colony.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 100 of Population.	Total.	Average to each Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Victoria - - -	247,425	22·68	4,881,198	19 14 7
New South Wales -	128,297	11·81	4,037,675	31 9 5
Queensland - -	43,003	11·10	1,611,876	37 9 8
South Australia - -	62,365	19·59	1,759,592	28 3 3
Western Australia -	3,096	7·34	30,808	9 19 0
Tasmania - -	23,090	15·80	469,928	20 7 0
New Zealand - -	103,046	16·96	2,091,693	26 2 5
Total -	610,322	16·59	15,482,770	25 7 4

* This amount probably includes capital lent by the New South Wales banks to their own branches outside the Colony.

VICTORIA.

Rate of interest in Australasian savings banks.

153. In Victoria the rate of interest paid in both descriptions of savings banks is 4 per cent., as already stated, but the rate paid in the other Australasian Colonies is often higher than in Victoria. Thus, in New South Wales, whilst the rate in the Post Office Savings Banks is 4 per cent., as in Victoria, that in the General Savings Banks is from 5 to 6 per cent.; in Queensland, the rate is 4 or 5 per cent., according to the amount deposited; in South Australia, 5 per cent.; in Tasmania the rates are 4 and 5 per cent. in the General and 3½ per cent. in the Post Office Savings Banks; and in New Zealand they are 5 and 4 per cent. respectively. On the other hand, the rate is only 3¾ per cent. in Western Australia.

Total moneys on deposit.

154. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit in Victoria at or about the end of each of the last five years with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits; but of these no returns are furnished :—

Moneys on Deposit at end of Years 1884 *to* 1888.

Amount deposited with—	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks - -	28,417,044	30,593,564	31,239,472	35,215,547	37,570,838
Savings banks -	2,981,083	3,409,266	3,589,916	3,696,699	4,669,541
Building societies	1,793,992	2,466,256	2,910,792	4,216,758	5,292,364
Total -	33,192,119	36,469,086	37,740,180	43,129,004	47,532,743

Moneys on deposit, 1888.

155. According to the table, the moneys on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to 47½ millions sterling, or 4⅖ths millions more than in the previous year and 14⅓ millions more than in 1884, four years previous. There is no doubt, however, that in all the years some of the savings banks' money, and a small portion of that deposited with building societies, is re-deposited with the banks, and thus counted twice over; but considering there are many institutions for the receipt of deposits from which no returns are obtained, it is not at all likely that the whole amount at deposit is less than that stated in the table.

Wealth of the population.

156. The property left by deceased persons affords an indirect means of ascertaining approximately the wealth of the population, for it may be supposed that the average amount left by each person dying is equivalent to the average amount possessed by each person

living. The result of such a calculation for three periods of years is as follows:—

Wealth of the Population of Victoria, 1872 *to* 1888.

Years.	Property of Deceased Persons sworn under.	Total Deaths.	Average Amount left by each Person dying.	Average Number of Persons living.	Total Wealth of the Population.
	£		£		£
1872–1876	11,699,757	63,402	185	776,052	143,569,620
1877–1881	13,732,848	61,552	223	836,677	186,578,971
1882–1888	33,403,253	101,753	328	966,076	316,872,928

Total wealth and wealth per head.

157. The national wealth is shown in the last column. It will be noticed that this amounted to nearly 144 millions sterling, or 185*l.* per head, in the five years 1872 to 1876; to nearly 187 millions sterling, or 223*l.* per head, in the five years 1877 to 1881; and to nearly 317 millions sterling, or 328*l.* per head, in the seven years 1882 to 1888. In 1887 and 1888 several large estates were entered for probate, with the result that if the average of those two years be taken, the national wealth would appear to amount to as much as 403 millions sterling, or 379*l.* per head. It would, however, obviously be misleading to make the calculation upon an average based upon so short a term as two years.

Public wealth not estimated.

158. It should be explained that the figures given represent only the property possessed by private individuals, no estimate being made of the value of Crown lands, Government or municipal buildings, churches, hospitals, libraries, museums, mechanics' institutes, State schools, forts, artillery, lighthouses, war vessels, railways, telegraphs, &c.; also that the figures no doubt understate the truth, as a considerable amount of property is taken over by relatives without any declaration of value, or issue of probate, or letters of administration, and, in order to reduce as much as possible the amount to be paid as succession duty, the properties are frequently declared at less than their full value.

Wealth as compared with indebtedness.

159. In the middle of 1888 the national debt amounted to 34,627,382*l.*, equal to rather less than 11 per cent. of the value of property as above estimated; but it must not be forgotten that, as a set-off to the debt, there is public property of immense value which is not included in the above estimate, and that the amount which could be realised by the sale of the State railways alone, the original cost of which was about 30 millions, would probably be amply sufficient to extinguish the whole debt.

Wealth of Australasia.

160. For the whole of Australasia the private wealth is estimated to amount to 1,015,000,000*l.*, or 286*l.* per head, and the value of public works and property to amount to 175,000,000*l.*, or 49*l.* per head, the estimated total value of private and public wealth com-

VICTORIA.

bined being thus 1,190,000,000*l.*, or 335*l.* per head. This is exclusive of the value of lands not yet alienated from the Crown.

Marriages, 1888.

161. The marriages returned to the Registrar-General in 1888 numbered 8,946, as against 7,768 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1888 was thus 1,178.

Marriages, 1888 and former years.

162. More marriages were returned in 1888 than in any previous year. The number returned annually had been almost stationary during the seven years prior to 1880, but in that year an advance was made, which has been more than sustained since. In 1882, for the first time, the marriages returned exceeded 6,000; in 1884, for the first time, they exceeded 7,000; and in 1888, for the first time, they exceeded 8,000, and, in fact, closely approached 9,000.

Marriage rate.

163. The proportion which the number of marriages bear to the total population is generally called the marriage rate. This for many years has been declining in Victoria, for whilst in the three years prior to 1863 it was above 8 per 1,000 of both sexes, and all ages; from 1863 to 1865 it was between 7 and 8, and between 1868 and 1878 it was between 6 and 7, per 1,000. It reached its lowest point, 5·98 per 1,000 in 1879; then gradually revived, and in 1888 amounted to 8·42 per 1,000, this being the highest rate in 29 years. The following table gives the number of marriages and number of persons married per 1,000 of the population during each of the 29 years ended with 1888:—

Annual Marriage Rate 1860 *to* 1888.

Year.	Per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		Year.	Per 1,000 of the Mean Population.	
	Number of Marriages.	Number of Persons Married.		Number of Marriages.	Number of Persons. Married.
1860 -	8·15	16·30	1876 -	6·21	12·42
1861 -	8·21	16·42	1877 -	6·31	12·62
1862 -	8·26	16·52	1878 -	6·20	12·40
1863 -	7·51	15·02	1879 -	5·98	11·96
1864 -	7·77	15·54	1880 -	6·22	12·44
1865 -	7·36	14·72	1881 -	6·79	13·58
1866 -	6·76	13·52	1882 -	7·09	14·18
1867 -	6·97	13·94	1883 -	7·43	14·86
1868 -	7·08	14·16	1884 -	7·73	15·46
1869 -	6·89	13·78	1885 -	7·72	15·44
1870 -	6·63	13·26	1886 -	7·84	15·68
1871 -	6·37	12·74	1887 -	7·62	15·24
1872 -	6·36	12·72	1888 -	8·42	16·84
1873 -	6·50	13·00			
1874 -	6·33	12·66	Mean of 29 years	7·07	14·14
1875 -	6·33	12·66			

Marriage rates in Australasian Colonies.

164. The following table gives a statement of the number of marriages to every 1,000 of the population of the various Austra-

lasian Colonies for each year from 1865 to 1888, except Western Australia, for which Colony it is given for the last 17 of those years:—

Marriage Rates in Australasian Colonies, 1865 *to* 1888.

Year.	Number of Marriages per 1,000 of Mean Population.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New-Zealand.
1865 - -	7·36	8·94	13·27	9·45	—	6·27	10·47
1866 - -	6·76	8·26	11·61	8·12	—	5·93	10·32
1867 - -	6·97	7·84	9·54	8·20	—	6·10	9·69
1868 - -	7·08	8·23	8·33	7·37	—	6·57	9·35
1869 - -	6·89	8·04	8·31	6·78	—	6·44	8·32
1870 - -	6·63	7·85	7·80	6·90	—	6·62	7·62
1871 - -	6·37	7·78	8·06	6·77	—	5·90	7·15
1872 - -	6·36	7·46	8·70	7·20	5·56	6·17	6·85
1873 - -	6·50	8·05	9·66	8·00	6·25	6·36	7·91
1874 - -	6·33	7·70	8·62	8·00	6·96	6·83	8·87
1875 - -	6·33	7·88	8·63	8·01	7·26	6·63	8·94
1876 - -	6·21	7·66	7·57	8·49	7·07	7·13	8·25
1877 - -	6·31	7·94	7·57	8·66	6·38	7·79	7·63
1878 - -	6·20	8·08	6·98	9·47	6·50	7·96	8·03
1879 - -	5·98	7·80	7·49	8·81	7·57	7·23	7·60
1880 - -	6·22	7·68	6·97	8·69	7·42	7·38	6·71
1881 - -	6·79	8·27	7·71	8·33	6·60	7·30	6·65
1882 - -	7·09	8·74	8·56	8·73	7·07	8·03	7·07
1883 - -	7·43	8·88	8·93	8·49	6·95	9·01	6·82
1884 - -	7·73	8·49	8·91	8·28	7·11	7·81	6·88
1885 - -	7·72	8·18	9·20	7·82	7·51	7·97	6·73
1886 - -	7·84	7·97	8·38	6·31	7·99	7·27	5·99
1887 - -	7·62	7·42	8·21	6·31	7·58	6·71	5·97
1888 - -	8·42	7·37	8·63	6·56	7·18	6·59	5·97
Means -	6·88	8·02	8·65	7·91	7·00	7·00	7·74

Births, 1888.

165. The births registered in Victoria during 1888 numbered 34,503, as against 33,043 in 1887. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 1,460.

Births in 1887, and former years.

166. During the 20 years ended with 1883 the number of births in Victoria had remained almost stationary; but in 1884 a marked increase took place, which has continued during the four subsequent years, the number of births in 1888 being the highest ever recorded. The increase between 1888 and 1887, however (1,460), was not so great as that between 1887 and 1886 (2,219).

Birth rate.

167. In proportion to population the births decreased steadily for a number of years. The lowest point was reached in 1882, since which year there has been a gradual improvement, the birth rate in 1888 having been higher than it had been in any year since 1876.

VICTORIA.

The following are the birth rates for the last 29 years :—

Annual Birth Rate, 1860 *to* 1888.

	Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.
1860	42·81
1861	43·46
1862	44·50
1863	42·46
1864	43·79
1865	42·40
1866	39·76
1867	39·75
1868	41·08
1869	37·89
1870	38·07
1871	37·15
1872	36·33
1873	36·71
1874	34·46
1875	33·94
1876	33·61
1877	32·17
1878	32·36
1879	32·18
1880	30·75
1881	31·24
1882	30·05
1883	30·23
1884	30·89
1885	31·27
1886	31·23
1887	32·40
1888	32·49
Mean of 29 years	36·05

Birth rates in Australasian Colonies.

168. Returns of the births in all the Australasian Colonies are available to the end of 1888, and from these and the mean popula

VICTORIA.

tions of the respective Colonies during each year the birth rates have been calculated in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne. The following table gives the birth rates of the different Colonies for each year from 1865 to 1888, or as many years between those periods as the figures are available for :—

Birth Rates in Australasian Colonies, 1865 *to* 1888.

Year.	Number of Births per 1,000 of Mean Populations.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1865 -	42·40	43·21	43·65	43·90	—	32·56	41·12
1866 -	39·76	40·45	44·86	42·38	—	29·15	42·89
1867 -	39·75	41·94	45·66	41·87	—	30·34	42·18
1868 -	41·08	40·72	43·03	41·51	—	30·03	42·14
1869 -	37·89	40·74	42·83	39·03	—	28·27	41·90
1870 -	38·07	40·09	43·51	38·48	—	30·18	42·32
1871 -	37·15	39·63	43·25	38·34	—	30·16	40·64
1872 -	36·33	38·46	40·70	37·60	32·42	29·44	39·50
1873 -	36·71	39·38	40·82	36·42	31·43	29·43	39·00
1874 -	34·46	39·30	41·11	38·22	33·71	29·72	40·27
1875 -	33·94	38·53	38·90	35·70	28·72	29·88	40·23
1876 -	33·61	38·56	37·48	37·71	33·98	30·11	41·73
1877 -	32·17	37·92	36·75	37·36	33·07	30·21	41·28
1878 -	32·36	38·50	35·77	38·23	31·11	32·27	42·14
1879 -	32·18	38·99	36·74	38·96	34·38	32·05	40·32
1880 -	30·75	38·80	36·92	38·94	32·35	32·91	40·78
1881 -	31·24	38·13	37·19	38·66	33·67	33·40	37·95
1882 -	30·05	37·37	35·85	37·40	35·84	33·50	37·32
1883 -	30·23	37·49	36·92	37·37	33·87	34·25	36·28
1884 -	30·89	38·54	36·23	38·38	33·84	35·66	36·15
1885 -	31·37	37·64	37·80	38·47	35·22	35·08	34·78
1886 -	31·23	37·03	37·84	35·70	39·43	34·15	33·15
1887 -	32·40	36·42	38·09	34·56	37·34	33·87	32·09
1888 -	32·49	36·18	37·77	33·34	35·88	33·10	31·22
Means -	34·52	38·92	39·57	38·26	33·93	31·65	39·06

Birth rates in Australasian Colonies in 1887 and previous years.

169. In 1888 the birth rate was below the average in all the Colonies except Western Australia and Tasmania, but it will be noticed that in all except those two the birth rates were exceptionally high in the earlier years to which the table refers, and this has had the effect of raising the average. In the last four years

VICTORIA.

the birth rate has shown a tendency to improve in Victoria and Queensland, but an opposite tendency in most of the other Colonies.

Births in Australasian capitals.

170. In 1888, the birth rate in Melbourne was lower than that in Brisbane, Sydney, or Adelaide, but above that in Perth, Wellington, or Hobart, as is shown in the following table, which gives, for that year, a statement of the estimated population and the number of births, and number per 1,000 of the population, in each of those capital cities:—

Births in Australasian Capital Cities, 1888.

Capital Cities.	Estimated Mean Population.	Births, 1888.	
		Total Number.	Number per 1,000 of the Population.
Brisbane - - -	85,800	3,744	43·64
Sydney - - - -	357,690	13,707	38·32
Adelaide - - -	115,380	4,371	37·88
Melbourne - - -	419,490	15,645	37·29
Perth - - - -	9,300	343	36·88
Wellington - - -	30,590	1,036	33·87
Hobart - - - -	34,419	1,039	30·19
Average - -	150,381	5,698	37·89

Deaths, 1888.

171. The deaths registered in 1888 numbered 16,287, as against 16,005 in 1887. The increase in the year under notice was thus 282.

Deaths, 1888, and former years.

172. In the last two years the deaths have exceeded 16,000; in 1886 they numbered less than 15,000, and only in one prior year, viz., 1875, did they reach that number. The high mortality in the last-named year, in which 15,287 deaths were recorded, was due to the prevalence of measles and scarlatina in an epidemic form.

Excess of births over deaths.

173. The births in 1888 exceeded the deaths by 18,216, or 112 per cent., the corresponding proportion being 106 per cent. in the two previous years. In the five years ended with 1885 the proportion averaged 110 per cent.; and in the 10 years ended with 1880 it averaged 119 per cent.; whilst during the whole period of 22 years ended with 1887 the average was 119 per cent. The following were the births and deaths in each of

those twenty-three years, and the excess of the former over the latter:—

Excess of Births over Deaths, 1866 *to* 1888.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	
			Numerical.	Centesimal.
				Per cent.
1866 - -	25,010	12,286	12,724	104
1867 - -	25,608	11,733	13,875	118
1868 - -	27,243	10,067	17,176	171
1869 - -	26,040	10,630	15,410	145
1870 - -	27,151	10,420	16,731	161
1871 - -	27,382	9,918	17,464	176
1872 - -	27,361	10,831	16,530	153
1873 - -	28,100	11,501	16,599	144
1874 - -	26,800	12,222	14,578	119
1875 - -	26,720	15,287	11,433	75
1876 - -	26,769	13,561	13,208	97
1877 - -	26,010	12,776	13,234	104
1878 - -	26,581	12,702	13,879	109
1879 - -	26,839	12,120	14,719	121
1880 - -	26,148	11,652	14,496	124
1881 - -	27,145	12,302	14,843	121
1882 - -	26,747	13,634	13,113	96
1883 - -	27,541	13,006	14,535	112
1884 - -	28,850	13,505	15,345	114
1885 - -	29,975	14,364	15,611	108
1886 - -	30,824	14,952	15,872	106
1887 - -	33,043	16,005	17,038	106
1888 - -	34,503	16,287	18,216	112
Total in 23 years	638,390	291,761	346,629	119

174. It will be noticed that the births more than doubled the deaths in all the years except 1882, 1876, and 1875.

Years in which births doubled deaths.

VICTORIA.

Annual death rate.

175. The following table shows the estimated mean population of either sex, and the death rate of males and females, and of both sexes, during each of the last 28 years :—

Annual Death Rate, 1861 *to* 1888.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.		Number of Deaths.		Deaths per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1861 -	324,988	214,836	6,124	4,398	18·84	20·47	19·49
1862 -	322,916	225,164	5,900	4,180	18·27	18·56	18·39
1863 -	325,680	237,280	5,646	3,856	17·34	16·25	16·88
1864 -	335,272	251,178	5,202	3,685	15·51	14·67	15·15
1865 -	347,083	264,135	6,158	4,303	17·74	16·29	17·11
1866 -	353,941	275,097	7,016	5,270	19·82	19·16	19·53
1867 -	359,642	284,634	6,613	5,120	18·39	17·99	18·21
1868 -	367,752	295,340	5,865	4,202	15·95	14·23	15·18
1869 -	379,396	307,806	6,221	4,409	16·40	14·32	15·47
1870 -	392,159	321,036	6,114	4,306	15·59	13·41	14·61
1871 -	403,319	333,686	5,845	4,073	14·49	12·21	13·46
1872 -	409,081	344,117	6,308	4,523	15·42	13·14	14·38
1873 -	412,597	352,914	6,565	4,936	15·91	13·99	15·02
1874 -	416,725	360,931	6,994	5,228	16·78	14·48	15·72
1875 -	419,779	367,558	8,563	6,724	20·40	18·29	19·42
1876 -	422,931	373,627	7,716	5,845	18·24	15·64	17·02
1877 -	427,727	380,878	7,345	5,431	17·17	14·26	15·80
1878 -	433,153	388,313	7,179	5,523	16·57	14·22	15·46
1879 -	438,563	395,467	7,033	5,087	16·04	12·86	14·53
1880 -	446,445	403,898	6,610	5,042	14·81	12·48	13·70
1881 -	456,107	412,835	7,024	5,278	15·40	12·78	14·16
1882 -	467,630	422,590	7,900	5,734	16·89	13·57	15·32
1883 -	478,865	432,117	7,410	5,596	15·47	12·95	14·28
1884 -	491,720	442,174	7,675	5,830	15·60	13·18	14·46
1885 -	505,716	452,879	8,300	6,064	16·41	13·39	14·98
1886 -	522,203	464,891	8,575	6,377	16·42	13·72	15·15
1887 -	541,070	478,630	9,213	6,792	17·03	14·19	15·70
1888 -	565,065	496,985	9,385	6,902	16·61	13·89	15·34
Average age of 28 years.					16·73	14·51	15·70

NOTE.—In 1861, 1866, and 1875, and to a certain extent in the preceding and in the succeeding years, the death rate was swelled by epidemics of measles and scarlatina.

VICTORIA.

Death rates in Australasian Colonies.

176. The proportion which the deaths that occurred in each Colony bore to the total population of that Colony during each of the 24 years from 1865 to 1888 will be found in the following table:—

Death Rates in Australasian Colonies, 1865 *to* 1888.

Year.	Number of Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Populations.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1865 -	16·97	16·49	21·42	14·30	—	13·40	15·13
1866 -	19·37	17·57	25·67	17·20	—	13·79	12·86
1867 -	18·06	19·76	17·80	17·48	—	14·48	12·78
1868 -	15·00	15·92	17·36	14·41	—	14·70	11·94
1869 -	15·47	14·17	16·20	12·37	—	13·20	11·73
1870 -	14·61	13·38	14·59	13·94	—	13·88	11·13
1871 -	13·46	12·61	14·83	12·87	—	13·38	10·13
1872 -	14·38	14·18	14·97	15·33	14·02	13·79	11·68
1873 -	15·02	13·98	16·06	13·48	16·24	14·52	12·67
1874 -	15·72	15·33	17·98	17·05	18·74	16·21	13·05
1875 -	19·42	18·42	23·80	19·45	17·88	20·00	15·92
1876 -	17·02	18·53	18·82	16·28	14·18	16·54	12·66
1877 -	15·80	15·69	17·29	13·99	15·70	19·17	11·47
1878 -	15·46	16·36	20·41	15·44	14·07	15·66	11·01
1879 -	14·53	14·76	14·97	14·09	14·46	15·18	12·46
1880 -	13·70	15·47	13·59	14·85	13·24	16·12	11·46
1881 -	14·16	15·17	15·02	14·49	13·80	14·77	11·13
1882 -	15·32	16·12	17·99	15·15	14·16	15·79	11·19
1883 -	14·28	14·68	18·82	14·83	17·93	17·06	11·45
1884 -	14·46	16·14	22·97	15·52	21·87	15·50	10·39
1885 -	14·98	16·42	20·19	12·73	17·61	15·40	10·74
1886 -	15·15	14·89	16·77	13·52	21·67	14·58	10·54
1887 -	15·70	13·15	14·56	12·59	16·83	15·45	10·29
1888 -	15·34	13·54	14·66	11·92	15·91	14·11	9·43
Means -	15·56	15·53	17·78	14·72	16·37	15·28	11·80

Death in Australasian capitals, 1888.

177. In 1888, according to the following figures, the death rate of Melbourne was considerably lower than that of Hobart, but apparently higher than that of any of the other Australasian capital cities. There is strong reason to believe, however, that in some of the Colonies either the metropolitan population is over-estimated, or the metropolitan radius, so far as deaths are concerned, is smaller than that for which the population is calculated. In either of these cases the death rate would obviously appear to be lower than it really is. It should, moreover, be mentioned that the death rate of Melbourne is swelled by the large number of country residents who are admitted to and die in the metropolitan hospitals. In the Wellington returns, and probably in those of some other of the capital cities, it is the custom to eliminate such entries, and it is probable that in Melbourne such deaths bear a higher proportion to the total number of deaths recorded than they do in any other of the capital cities named. Excluding the deaths which occurred in

VICTORIA.

hospitals, asylums, &c., the death rate of Greater Melbourne, already stated to have been in that case only 16·89 per 1,000, is lower than that shown in the table for any of the capitals except Wellington :—

Deaths in Australasian Capital Cities, 1888.

Capital Cities.*	Estimated Mean Population.	Deaths, 1888.	
		Total Number.	Number per 1,000 of the Population.
Hobart - - - -	34,419	715	20·77
Melbourne - - -	419,490	8,606	20·51
Perth - - - -	9,300	181	19·46
Sydney† - - -	357,690	6,258	17·49
Adelaide† - - -	115,380	1,994	17·28
Brisbane - - -	85,800	1,459	17·00
Wellington - - -	30,590	390	12·75

Land under tillage.

178. The land under cultivation in 1888-9 was 2,564,742 acres, or 11,663 acres less than in the previous year.

Land under principal crops.

179. The principal crops grown are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and green forage. The following table shows the extent of land under each of these crops in the last two seasons :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1888 *and* 1889.

Year ended March—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1888 - - -	1,232,943	199,036	40,983	48,263	441,812	164,457
1889 - - -	1,217,191	197,518	83,483	43,074	411,332	192,540
Increase -	—	—	42,500	—	—	28,083
Decrease -	15,752	1,518	—	5,189	30,480	—

* With Suburbs.

† There are some doubts as to whether too high an estimate has not been given of the populations of Sydney and Adelaide. If this should be the case, the death rates for those cities, as shown in the table, would, as a matter of course, be lower than the true rates.

Produce of principal crops.

180. The following is a statement of the gross produce of these crops (except green forage, of which no account is kept,) in the same two years:—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1888 *and* 1889.

Year ended March—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1888 - - -	13,328,765	4,562,530	956,476	198,225	624,122
1889 - - -	8,647,709	2,803,800	1,131,427	131,149	308,117
Increase -	—	—	174,951	—	—
Decrease -	4,681,056	1,758,730	—	67,076	316,005

Average per acre of principal crops.

181. The average produce per acre of these crops was as follows in the last 10 years:—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1880 *to* 1889.

Year ended March—	Average Produce per Acre of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1880 - - -	13·29	24·00	24·67	4·04	1·45
1881 - - -	9·95	17·62	15·57	2·81	1·20
1882 - - -	9·40	24·57	19·07	3·43	1·13
1883 - - -	9·03	26·17	17·35	3·78	1·06
1884 - - -	14·10	25·07	22·84	4·01	1·43
1885 - - -	9·52	23·40	17·38	4·16	1·09
1886 - - -	8·99	21·72	17·58	3·83	1·05
1887 - - -	11·49	22·91	22·36	3·41	1·09
1888 - - -	10·81	22·92	23·34	4·11	1·41
1889 - - -	7·10	14·20	13·55	3·04	·75
Mean - -	10·37	22·26	19·37	3·66	1·17

VICTORIA.

Wages.

182. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in respect to engagements made in Melbourne in 1888, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia. It has been compiled from statements obtained from the best authorities, and is believed to be fairly representative of a state of affairs which must always be subject to some fluctuations. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours:—

Wages in Melbourne, 1878, 1883, *and* 1888.

Description of Labour.	1878.	1883.	1888.
1.—Domestic Servants.			
Males.			
Coachmen, footmen, grooms, gardeners - per week, with board and lodging	20*s.* to 30*s.*	20*s.* to 30*s.*	20*s.* to 30*s.*
Butlers - - - „	20*s.* to 40*s.*	30*s.* to 40*s.*	20*s.* to 40*s.*
Females.			
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 60*l.*	40*l.* to 75*l.*	40*l.* to 75*l.*
Laundresses - - „	30*l.* to 45*l.*	35*l.* to 52*l.*	40*l.* to 52*l.*
Housemaids - - „	35*l.* to 40*l.*	25*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
Nursemaids - - „	25*l.* to 35*l.*	20*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
General servants - „	25*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 38*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
Girls - - - per week, with board and lodging	7*s.* to 10*s.*	7*s.* to 10*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
2.—Hotel Servants.			
Males.			
Barmen - - - per week, with board and lodging	20*s.* to 40*s.*	30*s.* to 45*s.*	30*s.* to 45*s.*
Waiters - - - „	25*s.* to 35*s.*	20*s.* to 40*s.*	25*s.* to 40*s.*
Boots - - - „	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Ostlers - - - „	17*s.* 6*d.* to 20*s.*	17*s.* 6*d.* to 20*s.*	20*s.* to 25*s.*
Cooks - - - „	25*s.* to 40*s.*	20*s.* to 65*s.*	20*s.* to 65*s.*
Females.			
Barmaids - - per week, with board and lodging	15*s.* to 25*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	20*s.* to 30*s.*
Waitresses - - „	12*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Housemaids - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
Cooks - - - „	50*l.* to 100*l.*	50*l.* to 100*l.*	50*l.* to 100*l.*
3.—Farm Servants.			
Males.			
Ploughmen - - per week, and found	20*s.* to 21*s.*	20*s.*	20*s.* to 25*s.*
Farm labourers - - „	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Milkmen for dairies -	15*s.* to 18*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*

Description of Labour.	1873.	1883.	1888.
3.—FARM SERVANTS—*cont.*			
Males—cont.			
Cheesemakers - - - { per week, and found }	—	25*s.* to 40*s.*	25*s.* to 40*s.*
Reapers - - - { per acre, and found }	7*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.*	10*s.* to 15*s.*	10*s.* to 15*s.*
Mowers - - - „	6*s.*	4*s.* to 6*s.*	4*s.* to 6*s.*
Threshers - - { per bushel, and found }	6*d.*	5*d.* to 7*d.*	5*d.* to 7*d.*
Cooks - - - { per annum, and found }	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 45*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*
Females.			
Dairymaids - - { per annum, with board and lodging }	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*
Cooks - - - „	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*
General servants - „	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*	30*l.* to 35*l.*
Married couples (generally useful) - - } „	60*l.* to 80*l.*	60*l.* to 90*l.*	70*l.* to 90*l.*
Hop-pickers - - per bushel	—	3½*d.* to 4½*d.*	3½*d.* to 4½*d.*
Maize-pickers - - per bag	—	6*d.*	6*d.*
4.—STATION SERVANTS.			
Males.			
Boundary riders - { per annum, with rations }	40*l.* to 50*l.*	40*l.* to 60*l.*	40*l.* to 60*l.*
Shepherds - - „	40*l.* to 50*l.*	36*l.* to 52*l.*	36*l.* to 52*l.*
Stockmen - - „	40*l.* to 50*l.*	60*l.* to 75*l.*	50*l.* to 75*l.*
Hutkeepers - - „	26*l.*	26*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 40*l.*
Cooks - - - „	40*l.* to 50*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*	50*l.* to 60*l.*
Labourers - - { per week, with rations }	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Drovers - - - „	25*s.* to 40*s.*	25*s.* to 40*s.*	25*s.* to 40*s.*
Sheepwashers - - „	15*s.* to 22*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - - - { per 100 sheep shorn, with rations }	15*s.* to 20*s.*	12*s.* to 15*s.*	15*s.* to 16*s.*
Females.			
Cooks - - - { per annum, with board and lodging }	45*l.* to 55*l.*	30*l.* to 50*l.*	30*l.* to 50*l.*
General servants - „	18*l.* to 40*l.*	20*l.* to 40*l.*	30*l.* to 45*l.*
Married couples - - { per annum, with rations }	50*l.* to 80*l.*	60*l.* to 90*l.*	70*l.* to 90*l.*
5.—WORKERS IN BOOKS, &c.			
Printers - - - per 1,000	1*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.* 1*d.*
„ - - - per hour	—	—	1*s.*
Lithographers - - per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*
Binders - - - „	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*
Paper rulers - - „	3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Sewers and folders (females) - - } „	15*s.* to 25*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*

VICTORIA.

Description of Labour.		1878.	1883.	1888.
6.—In Watches, Jewellery, and Precious Metals.				
Watchmakers	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*	3*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*	3*l.* to 4*l.*
Manufacturing jewellers	„	2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 15*s.* to 4*l.*
Enamellers	„	6*l.* to 8*l.*	6*l.* to 8*l.*	3*l.* to 4*l.*
7.—In Metals other than Gold and Silver.				
Blacksmiths	per day	10*s.* to 13*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*
Farriers, firemen	per week	2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.*
„ floormen	„	30*s.* to 40*s.*	30*s.* to 40*s.*	35*s.* to 40*s.*
Hammermen	per day	7*s.* to 8*s.*	7*s.* to 8*s.*	7*s.* to 8*s.*
Fitters	„	9*s.* to 12*s.*	9*s.* to 12*s.*	9*s.* to 13*s.*
Turners	„	10*s.* to 13*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 13*s.*
Boilermakers and platers	„	12*s.* to 13*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*
Riveters	„	9*s.* to 11*s.*	9*s.* to 11*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Moulders	„	10*s.* to 13*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.*
Brassfinishers, coppersmiths	„	9*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 11*s.*
Tinsmiths	per week	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
Ironworkers	„	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 2*s.* to 3*l.*
Galvanizers	„	3*l.*	3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*
Plumbers, gasfitters	„	3*l.*	3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.*
8.—In Carriages and Harness.				
Smiths	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*
Bodymakers	„	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*
Wheelers	„	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*
Painters	per day	9*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*	8*s.* to 11*s.*
Trimmers	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Vycemen	„	30*s.* to 50*s.*	25*s.* to 30*s.*	30*s.* to 50*s.*
Saddlers	„	2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
9.—Workers in Ships and Boats.				
Sailors— Sailing vessels	per month, and found		4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*	3*l.* 10*l.* to 5*l.*
Steamships	„	6*l.*	4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*	
Ship carpenters, shipwrights	per day	13*s.*	12*s.* to 13*s.*	13*s.*
Stevedores' men, lumpers	per hour	1*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.*
10.—In Houses and Buildings.				
Masons	per day	10*s.* to 11*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Plasterers	„	10*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Bricklayers	„	10*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Slaters	„	10*s.*	12*s.*	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Carpenters	„	10*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.*
Labourers	„	6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*	7*s.* to 8*s.*	7*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*
Painters and glaziers	„	9*s.*	9*s.* to 10*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*

Description of Labour.		1878.	1883.	1888.
11.—IN FURNITURE, &c.				
Cabinetmakers	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
Upholsterers	„	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.*
Polishers	„	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
Coopers	per day	10*s.*	10*s.*	9*s.* to 10*s.*
12.—IN DRESS.				
Tailors	per hour	10*d.* to 1*s.*	10*d.*	10*d.*
„	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*
„ in factories	„	2*l.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*
Mantlemakers	„	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	12*s.* to 25*s.*
Milliners—				
First class	„	3*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* to 4*l.*
Second class	„	35*s.*	35*s.*	1*l.* to 2*l.*
Dressmakers	„	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	12*s.* to 25*s.*
Needlewomen	„	15*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 25*s.*	10*s.* to 20*s.*
Bootmakers	riveting children's boots, per pair	6*d.*	6*d.*	6*d.*
„	riveting boys' boots, per pair	10*d.*	10*d.*	10*d.*
„	riveting women's boots, per pair	1*s.*	1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
„	riveting men's boots, per pair	1*s* 3*d.*	1*s.* 3*d.*	1*s.* 3*d.*
„	making wellingtons to order	10*s.*	10*s.*	10*s.*
„	making elastics to orders	7*s.* 6*d.*	7*s.* 6*d.*	7*s.* 6*d.*
„ Machinists	per week	15*s.* to 35*s.*	15*s.* to 30*s.*	15*s.* to 30*s.*
Hatters—				
Bodymakers	per dozen	12*s.* to 20*s.*	12*s.* to 20*s.*	12*s.* to 22*s.*
Finishers	„	12*s.* to 24*s.*	12*s.* to 24*s.*	12*s.* to 24*s.*
Shapers	„	4*s.* to 12*s.*	4*s.* to 12*s.*	4*s.* to 12*s.*
Crown sewers	„	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*
Trimmers	„	6*s.*	6*s.*	6*s.* to 9*s.*
Clothing Factories—				
Tailoresses	per week	20*s.* to 35*s.*	12*s.* 6*d* to 35*s.*	20*s.* to 35*s.*
Pressers	„	2*l.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*
Shirtmakers	„	12*s.* to 20*s.*	12*s.* to 25*s.*	12*s.* to 25*s.*
Machinists	„	15*s.* to 30*s.*	20*s.* to 35*s.*	20*s.* to 35*s.*
Drapers' assistants, carpet salesmen	„	2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* to 5*l.*
13.—IN FOOD AND DRINK.				
Bakers—				
Foremen	per week	3*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.*	3*l.*
Second hands	„	2*l.* to 2*l.* 2*s.*	25*s.* to 35*s.*	2*l.* 10*s*

VICTORIA.

Description of Labour.		1878.	1883.	1888.
13.—IN FOOD AND DRINK—*cont.*				
Butchers—Shopmen	per week	35*s.* to 40*s.*	30*s.* to 40*s.*	30*s.* to 40*s.*
Slaughtermen	„	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*
Boys	per week, with board	10*s.* to 20*s.*	10*s.* to 20*s.*	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Small-goods men	„	1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.*	1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.*	1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.*
Maltsters	per week	—	2*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.*
14.—IN ANIMAL SUBSTANCES.				
Curriers	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Tanners	„	38*s.* to 45*s.*	38*s.* to 45*s.*	38*s.* to 40*s.*
Beamsmen	„	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	38*s.* to 45*s.*
Shedsmen	„	2*l.* 2*s.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*	2*l.* 2*s.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*	38*s.* to 50*s.*
Fellmongers	„	36*s.* to 60*s.*	36*s.* to 60*s.*	36*s.* to 60*s.*
15.—IN STONE, CLAY, &c.				
Brickmakers	per 1,000	18*s.* to 20*s.*	18*s.* to 20*s.*	18*s.* to 20*s.*
Navvies	per day	6*s.* 6*d.*	6*s.* to 7*s.*	6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Quarrymen	„	8*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 12*s.*
Labourers	„	6*s.* to 7*s.*	7*s.* to 8*s.*	6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Stonebreakers	per cubic yard	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
16.—IN MINES.				
General managers	per week	2*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.*
Legal „	„	5*s.* to 6*l.*	10*s.* to 5*l.*	10*s.* to 5*l.*
Mining „	„	2*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.*	2*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.*
Engineers	„	2*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.*	2*l.* to 5*l.*	2*l.* to 5*l.*
Engine-drivers	„	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Pitmen	„	1*l.* 18*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* to 4*l.*
Blacksmiths	„	2*l.* to 4*l.*	1*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.*	1*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.*
Carpenters	„	1*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Foremen of shift	„	2*l.* 2*s.* to 4*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*	2*l.* to 3*l.*
Miners	„	2*l.* 5*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*
Surfacemen (labourers)	„	2*l.*	1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*	1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*
Boys	„	10*s.* to 2*l.*	15*s.* to 1*l.* 16*s.*	15*s.* to 1*l.* 16*s.*
Chinese	„	12*s.* to 37*s.*	12*s.* to 36*s.*	12*s.* to 40*s.*

Prices.

183. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follows at the same three periods. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, imported wines, coal, &c. is naturally somewhat higher, and that

of agricultural and grazing produce, firewood, &c. naturally somewhat lower, than in Melbourne:—

Prices in Melbourne, 1878, 1883, *and* 1888.

Articles.		1878.	1883.	1888.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.				
Wheat	per bushel	5*s.* to 5*s.* 10*d.*	4*s.* 2*d.* to 5*s.* 4*d.*	3*s.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*
Barley	„	4*s.* to 7*s.* 3*d.*	4*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 9*d.*	2*s.* 9*d.* to 5*s.* 4*d.*
Oats	„	4*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*	1*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*
Maize	„	4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	3*s.* 10*d.* to 5*s.* 10*d.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*
Bran	„	1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*	11*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*	7*d.* to 11½*d.*
Hay	per ton	2*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.*	3*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*	3*l.* to 5*l.* 10*s.*
Flour, first quality	„	10*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 13*l.*	9*l.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*	7*l.* to 10*l.* 10*s.*
Bread	per 4 lb. loaf	6*d.* to 7*d.*	5½*d.* to 7*d.*	4½*d.* to 6*d.*
GRAZING PRODUCE.				
Horses— Draught	each	16*l.* to 50*l.*	25*l.* to 50*l.*	15*l.* to 48*l.*
Saddle and harness	„	5*l.* to 60*l.*	8*l.* to 25*l.*	8*l.* to 30*l.*
Cattle— Fat	„	3*l.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* to 14*l.*	5*l.* to 14*l.*
Milch cows	„	5*l.* to 13*l.*	5*l.* to 10*l.*	5*l.* to 16*l.*
Sheep, fat	„	3*s.* to 19*s.*	7*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.*	7*s.* to 19*s.*
Lambs, fat	„	2*s.* 6*d.* to 14*s.*	5*s.* to 12*s.*	5*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.*
Butchers' meat— Beef, retail	per lb.	2½*d.* to 8*d.*	3*d.* to 8*d.*	2½*d.* to 7½*d.*
Mutton „	„	1½*d.* to 4½*d.*	2*d.* to 5*d.*	1½*d.* to 3*d.*
Veal „	„	4*d.* to 8*d.*	5*d.* to 8*d.*	5*d.* to 8*d.*
Pork „	„	6*d.* to 9*d.*	6*d.* to 10*d.*	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Lamb „	per quarter	2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
DAIRY PRODUCE.				
Butter	per lb.	6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.*	8*d.* to 2*s.*
Cheese	„	6*d.* to 1*s.*	8*d.* to 1*s.*	6*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Milk	per quart	4*d.* to 6*d.*	4*d.* to 6*d.*	5*d.* to 6*d.*
FARM-YARD PRODUCE.				
Geese	per couple	5*s.* to 8*s.*	6*s.* to 10*s.*	5*s.* to 17*s.*
Ducks	„	3*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*	4*s.* to 6*s.*	3*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.*
Fowls	„	3*s.* to 5*s.*	3*s.* to 6*s.*	3*s.* to 8*s.*
Rabbits	„	9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	9*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
Pigeons	„	1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Turkeys	each	3*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*	4*s.* to 15*s.*	7*s.* 6*d.* to 17*s.* 6*d.*
Sucking pigs	„	8*s.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*

Articles.		1878.	1883.	1888.
FARM-YARD PRODUCE--*cont.*				
Bacon	per lb.	10*d.* to 1*s.*	7*d.* to 10*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.*
Ham	„	1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	8*d.* to 1*s.*	10*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*
Eggs	per doz.	10*d.* to 2*s.*	1*s.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*	1*s.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*
GARDEN PRODUCE.				
Potatoes—Wholesale	per ton	3*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.*	2*l.* to 6*l.*	2*l.* 5*s.* to 14*l.* 10*s.*
Retail	per cwt.	4*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.*	3*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* 6*d.*
Onions, dried	„	6*s.* to 18*s.*	4*s.* to 20*s.*	3*s.* 4*d.* to 15*s.*
Carrots	per dozen bunches	6*d.* to 1*s.*	6*d.* to 9*d.*	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Turnips	„	4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	4*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	4*d.* to 1*s.*
Radishes	„	4*d.* to 6*d.*	4*d.* to 6*d.*	4*d.* to 6*d*
Cabbages	per doz.	6*d.* to 4*s.*	6*d.* to 4*s.*	6*d.* to 4*s.*
Cauliflowers	„	1*s.* to 5*s.*	9*d.* to 6*s.*	1*s.* to 6*s.*
Lettuces	„	4*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	6*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	3*d.* to 1*s.*
Green peas	per lb.	1*d.* to 3*d.*	1*d.* to 4*d.*	1*d.* to 4*d.*
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.				
Tea	per lb.	7½*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	7*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*	6*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.*
Coffee	„	11¼*d.* to 1*s.* 4½*d.*	6½*d.* to 10½ .	8*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Sugar	„	3*d.* to 5*d.*	3*d.* to 4*d.*	2½*d.* to 4*d.*
Rice	„	3*d.* to 4*d.*	2½*d.* to 4*d.*	3*d.* to 4*d.*
Tobacco	„	3*s.* to 6*s.*	3*s.* to 6*s.*	3*s.* to 6*s.*
Soap, Colonial	„	2*d.* to 3¼*d.*	3*d.* to 4*d.*	3*d.* to 4*d.*
Candles—Sperm	„	8½*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	8¾*d.* to 11*d.*	6*d.* to 9*d.*
Salt	„	1*d.*	1*d.*	—
Coals	per ton	29*s.* to 60*s.*	25*s.* to 36*s.*	24*s.* to 30*s.*
Firewood	„	11*s.* to 13*s.*	9*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.*	10*s.* to 14*s.*
WINES, SPIRITS, &c.				
Ale	per doz.	6*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*	5*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 11*s.*
Porter	„	7*s.* to 10*s.* 9*d.*	5*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*
Brandy	per gall.	21*s.* to 33*s.*	22*s.* 6*d.* to 35*s.*	22*s.* 6*d.* to 35*s.*
Rum	„	15*s.* to 18*s.*	15*s.* to 18*s.*	15*s.* to 18*s.*
Whisky	„	17*s.* 6*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*	18*s.* to 28*s.*	18*s.* to 28*s.*
Geneva	per case 15 bottles	60*s.* to 62*s.* 6*d.*	60*s.* to 62*s.* 6*d.*	60*s.* to 62*s.* 6*d.*
Port wine	per doz	35*s.* to 70*s.*	33*s.* to 72*s.*	—
Sherry	„	35*s.* to 70*s.*	35*s.* to 75*s.*	—
Claret	„	30*s.* to 65*s.*	32*s.* 6*d.* to 70*s.*	15*s.* to 87*s.*
Champagne	„	75*s.* to 100*s.*	70*s.* to 105*s.*	33*s.* to 95*s.*
Colonial wine	„	12*s.* to 28*s.*	2*s.* to 30*s.*	12*s.* to 30*s*

184. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned, in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1888–9." Victorian Year Book.

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 89.

ZULULAND.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1890.

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1890.

[C.—5897.-19.]

REPORTS ON H.M. COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885
40	Lagos (Western District)	1888
41	Gambia	1887
42	Sierra Leone	,,
43	Victoria	,,
44	British Bechuanaland	,,
45	New Guinea	,,
46	Newfoundland	,,
47	New Zealand	,,
48	Heligoland	1888
49	Gibraltar	,,
50	Bermuda	,,
51	Trinidad	,,
52	Turks Islands	,,
53	Jamaica (Coolie Immigration)	,,
54	Falkland Islands	,,
55	Bahamas	,,
56	Jamaica	1887–8
57	Malta	1888
58	St. Helena	,,
59	Straits	,,
60	Natal	,,
61	Gambia	,,
62	Barbados	,,
63	Labuan	,,
64	Grenada	,,
65	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,
66	Gold Coast (Gold Mines)	1889
67	St. Lucia	1888
68	Lagos	1887
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	,,
71	British Honduras	,,
72	British Guiana	,,
73	Western Australia	,,
74	Gold Coast	,,
75	Sierra Leone	,,
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Report)	,,
77	Hong Kong	,,
78	Ceylon	,,
79	Fiji	,,
80	Lagos	,,
81	Victoria	,,
82	Leeward Islands	,,
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1888
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	,,

No. 89.

ZULULAND.

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
March 10, 1890.

MY LORD,

IN compliance with Colonial Regulations 268–271, I have the honour to place before your Lordship, in duplicate, the annual Blue Book for Zululand for the year 1889, together with a copy of a report thereon by the Resident Commissioner, exhibiting generally the past and present state of the territory and its prospects under the several heads specified in the covering schedule of returns.

I have to express my regret that the Blue Book has not been completed in time to reach your Lordship before the close of this quarter in accordance with Regulation 269. Every effort was made to have the various returns ready for transmission in due time, but owing to the distance of the several out-stations in Zululand from which it was necessary to obtain a great proportion of the statistics, and also to the difficulty of procuring anything like reliable information, the delay which has occurred has in reality been unavoidable.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

BLUE BOOK FOR 1889.

REPORT by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER in terms of Colonial Regulation No. 271.

In order that the representations in this report may be the better understood, and this being the first Zululand Blue Book sent to the Secretary of State, it appears necessary that I should premise by making a brief reference to events since the country became a British possession in May 1887, and then comment on circumstances of the year 1889.

o 62389. Wt. 19305.

ZULULAND.

By proclamation dated the 14th May 1887 made by His Excellency Sir A. E. Havelock, then Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for Zulu affairs, Zululand was declared to be a British possession from and after the 19th of May.

By Her Majesty's Commission dated the 19th of May 1887, Sir A. E. Havelock, Governor of Natal, was appointed to be Governor of Zululand, and on the same date His Excellency assumed the government of the territory.

The territory was forthwith divided into six magisterial districts, to each of which was appointed a Resident Magistrate, who, with the exception of the Resident Magistrate, Eshowe, also acts as Assistant Commissioner.

A Resident Commissioner was likewise appointed and stationed at Eshowe.

Dinuzulu, son of the late Zulu King, and some of his near relatives, being dissatisfied with the extension of British authority and rule over Zululand, caused the disturbances in 1888 which in the latter part of that year were completely suppressed. A Court of Special Commissioners was, in October 1888, appointed by the Governor for the trial of the Chiefs and other ringleaders. The labours of the Court extended over several months and were concluded on 27th April 1889.

The disturbances alluded to occurred, as will be seen, not many months after the establishment of British rule, and before the arrangements made could be brought into such full operation as to accustom the people thereto and to secure their appreciation. During the period of the disturbances the local administration was naturally greatly hampered in carrying on the government, as much dislocation of the ordinary means at its disposal was an unavoidable attendant circumstance. There was therefore not much substantial progress in the territory during the year 1888, and owing to the abnormal circumstances then prevailing the conditions in that year can scarcely be taken into comparison with those in 1889. An attempt was made to compile returns for the Blue Book for 1888, but the data obtainable were so meagre, and, to a large extent, so unreliable, that they were thought unsuitable for any useful purpose.

The progress of Zululand was, during the early months of 1889, hampered by the continuance of the sitting of the Special Court, as the natives were under the firm impression that, should the accused Chiefs regain their liberty by the verdict of the Court, the Queen's authority over Zululand would be at once withdrawn, and that Dinizulu would be installed as King in succession to Cetywayo. The result of the trials set at rest the uncertainty in the minds of the natives, and since then the people have settled down to their ordinary occupations, and the year 1889 has on the whole proved

a prosperous as well as a peaceful one for Zululand, as will also be seen from the Blue Book, this condition existing notwithstanding a great scarcity of Indian corn (the staple food in Zululand), in consequence of a short harvest in the previous autumn.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue in 1888 stood thus :—

	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January 1888 - -	5,102	3	2
Revenue 1888 - - -	33,438	19	6
	38,541	2	8
Expenditure in 1888 - - -	34,658	15	5
Balance on 31st December 1888 -	3,882	7	3

In the amount shown above as expended there are included the following items of extraordinary expenditure :—

	£	s.	d.
Suppression of Usutu outbreak -	11,383	2	9
Court of Special Commissioners -	1,231	14	10
Trigonometrical survey - -	164	5	11
Instalment in repayment of loan from Her Majesty's Treasury in 1882–1883 - - - -	500	0	0
Total - -	13,279	3	6

This total amount formed no part of the ordinary expenditure of the Local Government, and the two first items, amounting together to 12,614*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, would not have been incurred but for the outbreak.

	£	s.	d.
The year 1889 was commenced with the balance of - - - -	3,882	7	3
Revenue in 1889 - - -	38,059	9	7
	41,941	16	10
Expenditure in 1889 - - -	33,766	15	8
Balance on 31st December 1889 -	8,175	1	2

ZULULAND.

In the expenditure of 1889 are included the following extraordinary items :—

	£	s.	d.
Repayment of balance of Her Majesty's Treasury Loan 1882–3 - -	3,000	0	0
Court of Special Commissioners -	4,466	19	2
Cost of preparation of title deeds to land grants in Proviso B. - - -	173	5	8
Trigonometrical survey - - -	349	12	0
Usutu outbreak - - -	156	4	11
Compensation advanced to Government officers for losses in disturbances -	234	4	10
Cost of Zulu-Tonga Boundary Expedition	294	4	11
Gratuity to non-commissioned officers and men Zululand Police for field service in 1888 - - -	281	0	0
Survey of Eshowe township - -	362	14	4
Total - - -	9,318	5	10

This sum shows the outlay incurred in addition to the ordinary expenditure for the Government of the territory.

The prospects of the revenue under the different heads are, I consider, favourable, and I doubt not that the revenue will, during the current year, not only reach the amount estimated, but exceed it, and prove sufficient for the approved expenditure, and also defray the cost of one or two additional magistracies to be established in the eastern part of Zululand towards the Tongaland boundary. I may state here that the actual revenue of 1889 exceeded the sum estimated by 9,549*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, or about 36 per cent., whereas the expenditure exceeded the estimate by 5,414*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, or about 18 per cent., and were it not for the extraordinary expenditure already specified, and which was not included in the estimates for the year, the actual expenditure would have fallen far short of that estimated.

With regard to the increase of revenue referred to, there was an increase under every head of revenue with the exception of one—viz., licenses—and the decrease in this case was but a small amount. The bulk of the increase was under hut tax, which yielded 22,011*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* in 1888 and 28,585*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* in 1889, principally due to the normal state of the country having been restored, which also accounts generally for the increases under the other heads of revenue as well.

Public Debt.

It will be observed that the territory is now out of debt. That notwithstanding the heavy extraordinary expenditure in 1888 and 1889, amounting to over 20,000*l.*, the balance of the loan from Her Majesty's Treasury in 1882–3 was paid off in 1889.

Military Expenditure

With regard to military expenditure, it appears to me sufficient to give the cost of the only local force, viz., the Zululand police; Her Majesty's troops here being included, I understand, in the Natal-Zululand command, of which the headquarters are in Natal. It will be seen that the police force consisted in 1889 of one commandant, one inspector, five sub-inspectors, and 250 non-commissioned officers and men. The employment of the inspector ceased in December 1889.

The cost of the maintenance of the force, including salaries, was, in 1889, 9,955*l.* 3*s.*

Legislation.

Legislation, when required, is effected by proclamation by the Governor. During 1889 seven proclamations were made, viz.:—

No. 1. Applying the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act to Zululand.
No. 2. Enacting a mining law.
No. 3. Exempting from duty tobacco from the Orange Free State, the South African Republic, and Natal.
No. 4. Establishing the office of Crown prosecutor and legal adviser.
No. 5. Enacting the payment of taxes, fees, licenses, and duties, stamp and otherwise.
No. 6. Zululand police regulations.
No. 7. Estimates for 1890.

Establishments.

The establishments are as follows:—

Governor.

The Governor.
Secretary for Zululand.
One clerk.

Resident Commissioner.

Resident Commissioner.
Secretary to Resident Commissioner.
One clerk and interpreter.
One European constable and messenger.
One induna and 6 native constables.

Treasury.

Receiver and accountant.
One clerk.

Attorney-General.

Combined. { One legal adviser, Crown prosecutor.
Registrar of Deeds and Registrar-General.

Magistracies.

Six Assistant Commissioners and Resident Magistracies.
Six clerks and interpreters.
One European constable and messenger (Entonjaneni).
Six native indunas.
Sixty-two native constables.

Police and Gaols.

Zululand Police.

One commandant of Zululand police.
One inspector.
Five sub-inspectors.
One sergeant-major.
Ten sergeants.
Twenty corporals.
Two hundred and nineteen privates.

Gaols.

One gaoler, Eshowe.
Six native turnkeys.

Medical.

One district surgeon.

Post and Telegraph.

One Postmaster, Eshowe.
„ Entonjaneni.
„ Lower Tugela.
„ Rorke's Drift.
„ Nondweni.
Average 21 native mail carriers throughout the year.

Telegraphs.

One telegraph clerk, Eshowe.
One telegraph messenger.

The total cost of the above civil establishments was, in 1889, 14,456*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Officers who have given Security.

Surety bonds were taken from all officers entrusted with the collection or expenditure of public funds.

Pensions.

On the annexation of Zululand in 1887 the payment of stipends was provided for to certain Chiefs during good behaviour. Some of these provisions have lapsed owing to misconduct. There are now four Chiefs still in receipt of their stipends, which in 1889 amounted to 480*l.*

Population.

		White.	Black.
1889 Estimate	Male - -	338	63,386
	Female - -	189	75,875
Total - - -		527	139,261

The number of the native population has been arrived at by estimating an average of $3\frac{3}{4}$ occupants for each hut on which the hut tax was collected in 1889.

Ecclesiastical.

There are established in Zululand 19 mission stations, of which six belong to the Church of South Africa, under the Missionary Bishop residing at Isandhlwana; eight belong to the Norwegian Mission, and five to the Hermansberg (German) Mission.

Education.

There are six schools for natives attached to the Church of South Africa, the total number of scholars on roll being 366 Attached to the Norwegian mission stations there are eight schools, the total number of scholars on roll being 380.

The cost of these schools is defrayed by the Church of South Africa and the Norwegian Society or Church respectively. A grant in aid of native education, 250*l.*, has been provided in the estimates for 1890, and will be applied accordingly.

Agriculture.

The crop of Indian corn and Kaffir corn or millet harvested in 1889 was below the average. This was in consequence of the

ZULULAND.

insufficient rainfall during the summer. The short crop caused a great scarcity of grain to exist, but which was to some extent met by the Local Government introducing a considerable quantity of corn, especially for seed purposes, and which was readily purchased by natives in want thereof at cost price.

The natives planted extensive crops during the latter part of 1889, and these now promise a plentiful harvest. I may state that during the early months of 1889 the price of Indian corn in Zululand was from 5*s.* to 7*s.* per muid of 200*l.*, and during the latter half of the year, owing to the previous drought, the price rose to 3*l.* and 3*l.* 10*s.* A considerable quantity of the Indian corn was imported from America.

The crops consist almost entirely of Indian corn and Kaffir corn or millet, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes. The uncultivated lands are used for pasturage for horned cattle, of which the Zulus generally possess a considerable number.

Wages.—The labour is almost entirely native unskilled labour, and wages range from 10*s.* to 25*s.* per month.

Grants of Land.

Fifty-nine grants of land in Entonjaneni District were made during 1889. They comprised 178,000 acres, and were made in terms of Provisio B. of the Agreement of 22nd October 1886 with the late New Republic. No other land was granted in Zululand.

Currency.

The currency consists of British coin.

Banking, &c.

There are no banking establishments in the territory. The Government makes use of the Natal Bank at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, for current business. Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Imports and Exports.

No means exists for ascertaining the amount of imports and exports.

Shipping.

There being no harbour no ships come to Zululand. The trade is done through Natal, by which Colony a sum of 1,800*l.* per annum is paid to Zululand as a rebate in lieu of customs duties.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

There are no manufactures or fisheries. The gold-mining industry has gradually increased during last year; it is, however, still in its infancy and confined to prospecting for gold.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The only gaol in Zululand is at Eshowe, to which long-sentence prisoners are sent from other districts. It is under the supervision of the Resident Magistrate

A lock-up of two cells is now being constructed at each magistracy.

Criminal Statistics.

Number of prisoners committed to Eshowe gaol 113; average daily number in gaol 43; total cost of prison 638*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

As the statistics for 1889 are the first obtained in Zululand there are no previous data to compare with.

Railways, Canals, Roads, and Telegraphs.

Of these there are only roads and telegraphs in Zululand. A main road exists right through the territory from Lower Tugela to Ndwandwe. Every seat of magistracy is connected by a road, and there are various other branch roads. The main roads are kept in repair by the local Government. No new roads were commenced in 1889.

The only telegraph line is between Eshowe and Lower Tugela, where it connects with the Natal system. The line is about 30 miles in length. Its earnings during 1889 exceeded by a small amount the cost of maintenance and other attendant expenditure.

(Signed) M. OSBORN,
Resident Commissioner.

Eshowe, Zululand,
8th March 1890.

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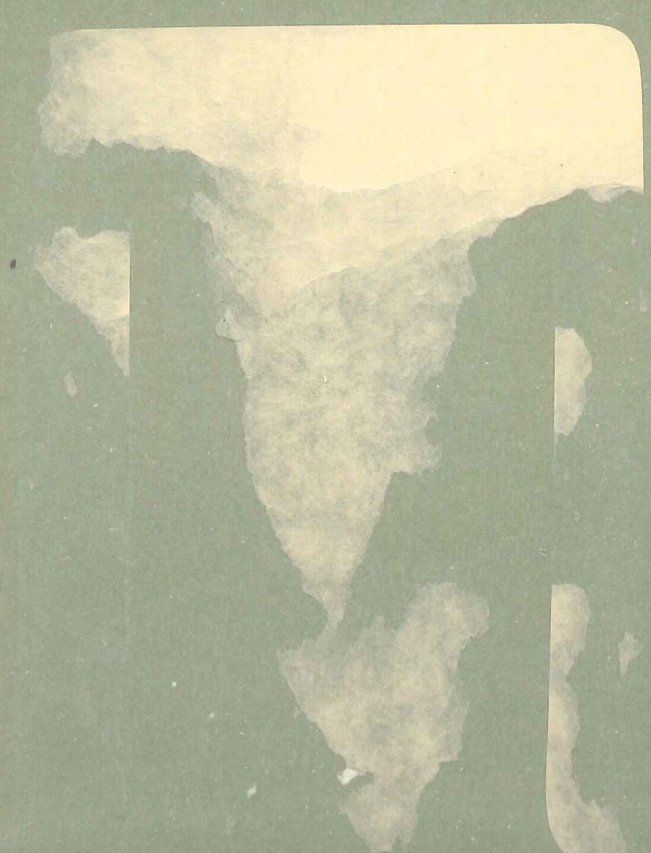

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